

Hafa Adai!

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ON FIX TO CW-1 CAP CRISIS:

'USCIS seriously considering options'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is seriously considering options pertaining to the CW-1 transitional visa cap crisis in the CNMI, according to USCIS associate counsel Ami Shah.

Shah disclosed that right now they are taking into account the situation here in the CNMI

» **USCIS receives unprecedented increase in CW-1 petitions early this year**
» **Employers, employees urged to read instructions in approved CW-1 notice**

"We are definitely aware of the situation," Shah said, referring to the CW-1 cap crisis.

The associate counsel, however, stated that she can't give specific answers to the questions if USCIS has any quick fix to the CW-1 crisis, what

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Some officers of the Society for Human Resources Management NMI Chapter join U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director David Gulick, fourth left, and his team for a group photo after USCIS' presentation yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's.

DNC platform pleases island nations in attendance

By **JILLIAN L. ANGELINE**
CORRESPONDENT

PHILDELPHIA—As Day 1 of the Democratic National Convention kicked off, the majority of delegates from the U.S. Pacific territories are throwing their support behind Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Island delegates echoed

» **13 delegates make history as first batch from CNMI**

their content with the Democrat's platform. The platform was officially adopted during Monday's proceedings at the Wells Fargo Center.

"Democrats have done a lot for the territories because they have been inclusive from Day 1. This is the big tent party and we've got every eth-

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JILLIAN L. ANGELINE

Three of the CNMI delegates pose with Guam Speaker Judith Won Pat outside of the Asian-American Pacific Islander caucus Monday morning at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. From left, CNMI delegate Angelo Villagomez, CNMI delegate Fran Castro, Guam delegate Speaker Judith Won Pat, and CNMI delegate Nola Hix.

'Let people vote on marijuana issue'

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) has pre-filed Senate Bill 19-106 or an act to regulate marijuana in the CNMI, ratifying it to have the people decide on his legislative measure. SB 19-106 first needs to become law before it could be included in a referendum.

There's a possibility that SB 19-106 would be discussed in the next Senate session since they have a tight schedule and with the mid-term elections also coming up this November.

"The final version from our end is a bill for an act, and for the bill to ratify to have the people vote

on the question on the Commonwealth Marijuana Regulation Act of 2016," said Igisomar, who added that his bill would answer the CNMI's need for access to medical marijuana.



Igisomar

"Access for medicinal use, personal use, and commercial use to provide revenue opportunity to our CNMI to support the general fund, for enforcement among others, and funding source to support our hospital, public schools, and retirees."

Igisomar's initial draft only wanted to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes, but he revised it proposing the controlled personal use and decriminalization of the

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Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) wants to give attention to the growing trash problem in the CNMI.

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Verizon's deal for Yahoo could give the phone company a stronger foothold in digital advertising.

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LIFE & STYLE

U2, Drake, Britney Spears and Sting will perform at the 2016 iHeartRadio Music Festival in September.

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Local

Brothers attending top federal service academies

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Aaron Tiger Lee decided to join the United States Naval Academy after being inspired by his older brother, Jake Tiger Lee, who is enrolled at West Point. Jake, 21, and Aaron, 18, are both attending the nation's top federal service academies after graduating from Saipan Southern High School.

"My brother was a big inspiration to me. I saw him when he came back and I saw how he changed as a person and how he carried himself. I admire that trait about him and that's what made me go to a military institution," Aaron told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

They described their transition from island life to the federal service as a defining moment.

For Jake Lee, receiving the appointment from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) was life changing as well. He said, "The academics at West Point were a big surprise. It was a lot



THOMAS MANGLONA II
Jake Lee, left, and his younger brother Aaron, right, pose for a photo with their father while in uniform.

harder than I thought it was going to be. There's just not enough time in the day for everything."

One of the most enjoyable moments in the academy, he explained, was meeting new people. "Some of the better aspects of it is that I met some of the best people ever. That

has been big bonus for me. I've made some of the best friends that I can ever imagine," Jake added.

Although the fast-paced lifestyle and rigorous course load came as a surprise, both of the Lee brothers said that they have fully adjusted as they pursue

their intended field of study in the coming months.

Aaron, who graduated a year early from high school, plans to attain his degree in cyber operations, which is coordinated by the National Security Agency, after concluding his freshman year. His older brother, who is entering his junior year, will commit to the finishing his career at West Point and is on track to receiving a degree in business management with a possible minor

in counter terrorism.

Aaron offered this advice to the islands' youth: "Make [your dreams] happen. You can't just sit back. The speed at which time moves here, it's really slow here so you can get complacent. Work to make it happen."

His brother, Jake, shared a similar message. He said, "The opportunity is there if you seek it out."

When asked if they'd return to the islands, the Lee brothers

said they would, but their future destinations are determined by the Navy and military. Their parents are Chong Nam Lee and Ryoko Chang.

With the excitement surrounding another year at West Point, Jake Lee also takes time to remember his fellow cadet and dear friend Mitchell Winney, who was killed in a military training accident at Fort Hood, Texas in June.

"I really do want to thank him and I'm forever grateful for all he has done for a lot of people. He always had a smile on his face and wanted everyone to be happy. He was a very optimistic guy. I really appreciate him," Lee said about his friend.

In a previous interview, Delegate Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI has never had this many students in the academies. He added, "This is a tribute to the hard work and determination of these students and to the support they received from their families and from the educational system in our islands."

Taimanao: House will come to SHEFA's aid

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rep. Francis S. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan) said the revenue collected from poker gaming and license fees have been an important source of funds to the CNMI and that's why he joins the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board's concern if ever owners decide to close their operations.

SHEFA funds, which help hundreds of Saipan high school graduates with their college education, come from poker fees collected annually. SHEFA chair Oscar M. Babauta said they need the help of the Legislature in finding other fund sources if poker game rooms close shop.

And this was the reason why Taimanao, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Education Committee vice chair, introduced House Local Bill 19-66 that aims to amend a provision on Saipan Local Law 18-05.

SLL 18-05 mandates the poker industry to move to the Adult Gaming Zone's geographical location in October next year, but Taimanao wants to prolong the move in

the next three to four years to lessen the impact.

"I'm kind of kind of concern on the impact that it would give to the program and its recipients. If the poker game rooms close, because owners could not afford the relocation and other additional costs, where does that leave us and what will happen to SHEFA," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The licenses fees paid by poker owners are one funding source that has helped us and contributed in our economy. The money collected goes into our revenues and there's an impact if ever they stop operating, it would be a domino effect that would hit and tumble one after another."

"This is a real challenge for us now but we must start identifying and finding other sources of funds. More than 600 high school graduates avail the program and SHEFA could not tell them that we can no longer fund your education," added the House Education Committee vice chair.

SHEFA chair Babauta has also noted the decreasing renewals of poker licenses. "But we're working with [House] Speaker [Rafael S. Demapan]

and [SNILD] chair JP Sablan to support our mission."

Demapan said the poker license fees generate a minimum of \$3 million for SHEFA, enough to assist students under the program. "That's why Rep. Taimanao proposed HLB 19-66 to address SHEFA's needs."

"We're going to have two more sessions before it goes down to the delegation level. The committee is working in due diligence in making sure to get inputs from the SHEFA board and other stakeholders. From there the committee will deliberate and review the legislation for the delegation's action," added Demapan.

Taimanao, however, said SHEFA could get a share of the pie generated from the casino fees. "The gaming commission could provide assistance in any possible way. Any help will do because the bottom line is all about the education of our children."

"We have to look for other ways and look at the possibility of casino fees as stated in PL 18-56. There's money sitting with the casino license fees. This is better raising or imposing new taxes."



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Rabauliman: Qualified people ready to fill Commerce posts



JON PEREZ

Department of Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, second right, listens to comments made by members of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs in yesterday's budget hearing at the Senate Chamber of the CNMI Legislature in Capital Hill.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Department of Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman is optimistic all vacant positions under his agency would be filled by the end of the fiscal year with some individuals on Saipan qualified to be hired.

Banking administrator, small business unit director, insurance administrator, economic director, central statistics director, and economic development officer II are some of the positions that need to be filled.

Sen. Sixto K. Igistomar (R-Saipan), in yesterday's budget hearing by the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, likened the department to a football team where a quarterback needs to have good running back so the team may score points.

"If you have these people on board, like a quarterback in a football team, you have all these prime runners that could make you score. You need them on board and you don't have them, I hope that you complete your team," said Igistomar, who is a former Commerce secretary.

Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune* that his department needs the help from all the professional people so they could achieve their goals for the CNMI. They have already been reassessing all the positions that need to be filled.

"A lot of those positions have been forwarded to the [Office of Personnel Management] and it was circulated and announced. Some of them have been filled but there are still positions that are still on the list of vacancies," added Rabauliman.

He said that they are in the process of finalizing the questions that they would ask once they interview applicants for the Central Statistics director.

They are also working with the Office of Management and Budget regarding the annual salary they would offer to candidates for the economic de-

velopment officer II post.

Rabauliman said he knows a number of people in the CNMI who are qualified to fill the vacancies. "But some of them believe that their skills don't match and it is just a matter of convincing them. Salary is another thing since it is not that competitive."

He added they are currently in negotiations with prospective candidates for the position and the OMB regarding salaries. He believes a final announcement will be completed this week and all positions to be filled before the fiscal year ends in October.

Still, Rabauliman said that a lot of it would depend who will apply for the positions mentioned. "OPM will do the rating system on the names and their qualifications that we're going to submit. There are also a number of qualified persons for the central statis-

tics director."

"The economic development officer post kind of also encompasses the analyst portion of it. What we're trying to do is to see what we can get and then work within our means. As we currently do at the department right now, some of our directors wear multiple hats."

Rabauliman said they always find creative ways in working within the resources that they currently have. "We will always come and ask for additional funding for here and there but after all is said and done we're going to work on what we're given."

Commerce submitted a budget request of \$2 million with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres cutting it to \$1.5 million with another \$300,000, which is a separate request, for the Workers Compensation Commission's disability fund.

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Judge revokes suspended sentence on teenager facing new criminal case

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has revoked the suspended sentence on a teenager who is facing a new criminal case while on probation.

In a written order issued yesterday, Camacho sentenced the 19-year-old Ashiqur Rahaman,

also known as Simon Kosam, to the full maximum sentence of 10 months imprisonment, to be served daily without the possibility of parole.

Rahaman was given credit of 57 days of time served. He was remanded into the custody of the Department of

Corrections.

Camacho said the grounds for re-imposing the suspended sentence is because the defendant failed to obey all laws of the CNMI when he picked up a new criminal case.

The new case charged Rahaman with two counts of

sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Rahaman allegedly engaged in sex with his 15-year-old girlfriend twice in the Garapan area.

In a 2015 case, Rahaman pleaded guilty to assault and battery. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CUC sets power interruption in Garapan today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be an emergency power interruption today, July 27, 2016, from 8:30am to 1pm.

Areas to be affected are commercial and residential customers along Alai Hai Avenue (Behind I Love Saipan south to Ocean View Hotel).

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely replace two rotted primary poles behind Duty Free Shopping Building.

CUC greatly appreciates the understanding of the community during this period.

Water service may be affected in the area during the power interruption as Water Lift Station S9 will be affected. CUC, however, said all service should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, motorists should take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>). *(PR)*

DNC

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nic group here, including us," American Samoa super delegate Teri Hunkin told *Saipan Tribune*. A native Californian, Hunkin has lived in American Samoa for more than 30 years now and she said her residency in the territory magnifies the need to cherish nature.

"The oceans, the environmental issues are huge. And people don't realize until they live in a small place like American Samoa how important it is to take care of the environment."

Environmental issues are also a front and center concern for CNMI delegate to the convention Angelo Villagomez. He is in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a contingent of 12 other CNMI delegates. It's an historic first for the Northern Marianas to send a delegation to the Democratic National Convention, which takes place every four years. The delegation was situated stage right in the set of bleachers above the arena floor near delegations from Wyoming, Guam, and American Samoa. CNMI delegation members could be seen holding up signs "Love trumps Hate," amidst cheers during the first night of the Convention.

Villagomez praised Hillary Clinton's platform calling for protection of oceans and lands, saying the goal is fantastic. But he especially supports her stance on climate change "and



JILLIAN L. ANGELINE

The Northern Mariana Islands sign stands tall in the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia at the Democratic National Convention. It's the first time a delegation from the CNMI is represented at the event taking place every four years ahead of the Presidential elections.

this is a major concern for the CNMI. A lot of the food, a lot of the protein that people are eating back home are coming from our coral reefs and coral reefs are probably the most threatened ecosystem by climate change."

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders told the thousands of attendees "Hillary Clinton will make an outstanding president and I am proud to stand with her here tonight." In endorsing Clinton and discussing the issues of the campaign including the economy and the immigration reform, Sanders called climate change "the greatest environmental crisis facing our planet." He went on to stress the

importance of maintaining a "healthy and habitable" world for the future generations.

On Monday morning, amid national media reports Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was leading Clinton in national polls, CNMI delegate Villagomez told us he was hopeful Clinton would get a bump of her own in the polls once U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders endorsed her.

Support for the Democrat's platform was evident earlier Monday at the Asian-American Pacific Islander caucus gathering. Villagomez explains to *Saipan Tribune* he heard during the caucus discussion at the convention those who identify

MARIJUANA

From Page 1

psychoactive drug that allegedly treats glaucoma, epilepsy, chronic pain, muscle spasms, and reduce nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy, and improve the appetite of people with HIV/AIDS.

He said that although several states and Guam have already passed several medicinal marijuana measures, it is not the same in the case of the CNMI. "I believe the critical mass is not present in the CNMI to the extent where it could be economical to enforce, yet affordable to patients."

That's why, Igisomar said, the pre-filed SB 19-106 would answer the need of people in the CNMI who are suffering from debilitating diseases. He added the common question nowadays is how to transition from a policy of prohibition to a new system.

"How do we transition from a policy of prohibition to a system of controlling, regulating, and taxing marijuana and

industrial help while protecting our children and keeping our communities safe."

Guam and Washington, D.C. joined 25 other U.S. states that have various forms of legislation that regulates and imposes taxes on the legal and medicinal use of marijuana. Igisomar believes this is also possible in the CNMI.

"Both the successes and failures of these programs has been observed, analyzed, and considered by those who have been enlisted to develop modern day marijuana legislation that can also be done in other places."

He used Measure 91 or the Oregon Control, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Act of 2014 as an example and an effective model that other states and territories could emulate.

Igisomar said he used Oregon's marijuana law as a model in drafting the CMRA. "[CMRA] is furthermore informed by eight federal guidelines concerning marijuana enforcement developed by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2014."

USCIS

From Page 1

alternatives they consider, and when the CNMI expect a concrete update on the situation.

"The only thing I can tell you is that we are seriously considering options here. It is in our radar," Shah said during the USCIS team's presentation yesterday before the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's.

USCIS district director David Gulick led the USCIS team in discussing the CW-1 transitional visa and the H-1B, H2-A, and B visas.

In response to a question from the audience during the discussions, Shah agreed she

can't discuss right now details on alternatives.

Gulick quickly intervened and stated that as soon as they can, rest assure that the people will hear from them.

"If we do come out with something, you will hear..." Gulick said, without elaborating on it.

Before the start of the presentation, Gulick emphasized that they are not going to discuss individual cases or case specific information.

USCIS Service Operations Center program manager Michelle Westra discussed about the CW-1 program. She disclosed that early this year, they received an unprecedented increase in CW-1 petitions.

Westra said they decided to create a CW cap webpage that

provides information on the individual cap.

She said Fiscal Year 2017 is not added yet in the webpage, but that it will be added.

Westra encouraged everyone to really visit this website.

USCIS maintains a similar website for H-2B visa, that is updated frequently.

Similar to H-2B visa website, Westra said the CW cap webpage will be updated on a regular basis and it will have information for Fiscal Year 2017.

Westra stressed that CW-1 petitioners have the option to file up to six months in advance of the employment start date.

"If you file more than six months in advance, your petition will be rejected, which means that everything will be

mailed back to you, including the fees," she said.

However, Westra said, they cannot stress enough the importance of planning ahead and taking advantage of this particular regulation which allows the employer to file up to six months in advance.

Westra also urged everyone to take a look at very important information in the approval notice once a CW-1 petition is approved.

Westra said the information is extremely important especially now.

"This is a part in the middle of the approval notice that has a lot of language. I highly encourage every single employer to read this information on every single approval notice that you receive," she said.

Westra said it provides addi-

tional instruction should there be anything that is needed for a specific approval.

"Specifically, if your CW-1 petition is approved, but we are requiring the beneficiary to depart the CNMI and enter through the consulate, that information will be found on this approval notice," she pointed out.

"So I cannot stress enough the importance of reading everything that is provided to you," Westra said.

She said employers or the workers may ignore the language in the notice because they already had it before and already approved.

"You may think again and really read the instructions that are provided in this approval notice," Westra said.

She said the Consolidated

Natural Resources Act requires, among other things, an annual reduction in the number of individuals who may be issued CW-1 visas or otherwise provided with CW-1 status each fiscal year.

"We cannot raise the cap, we can only lower it," she said.

In addition, Westra said, USCIS is required by statute to reduce the number of CW-1 nonimmigrant workers to zero by the end of the transition period, Dec. 31, 2019.

Westra discussed, among other things, how they gauge the cap.

USCIS Service Center Operations program manager Kyle Michaelis talked about the overview, the process, and other issues regarding H-2A, H-1B, and H-2B visas.



CONFIRMED

Vianney B. Hocog, center, joins from left, Sens. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), Paul Manglona (Ind-Saipan), Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Senate President Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian), Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), and Teresita Santos (R-Rota), after being confirmed by the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations yesterday.

JON PEREZ

Judge finds too lenient proposed jail term on habitual offender

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has rejected as too lenient a proposed nine-month prison term on Peter Koichi Lemei, a habitual offender who is facing a new theft case.

“The people of the CNMI deserve to have a safe community. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment,” said Camacho in rejecting the proposed plea agreement.

Camacho noted that Lemei, 46, is a repeat offender and the allegation in this case is that he stole the purse and money in front of the alleged victim, who knew and identified him.

“The jail sentence under the proposed plea agreement fails to conform to the standards of this court and the CNMI community, and does not account for facts and factors for a careful and individualize sentence,” the judge said.

Court records show that Lemei used Koichi as his last name in the past.

Camacho said Lemei has multiple prior convictions for robbery, burglary, theft, and assault and battery.

In this case, the Office of the Attorney General charged the defendant with theft (felony), which carries a maximum sentence of not more than five years.

Under the proposed plea deal, Lemei would have pleaded guilty to theft as a misdemeanor. The proposed sentence is one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for nine months, with credit for time served.

In rejecting the proposed plea agreement, Camacho said the OAG does not give any reasonable explanation why the charges are reduced or that the plea terms serve the interest of justice. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Employer allegedly attacks employee with metal bicycle pump, golf club

A man suffered multiple injuries after his employer allegedly punched and struck him with a metal bicycle pump and a golf club at his apartment unit in As Matuis last July 8.

Boyang Lin suffered a cut on the forehead and cuts and scratches on the elbows. His mouth was bleeding and his chest had several red marks, according to a responding police officer.

Bo Ren, 33, was served with an arrest warrant in As Matuis on Monday afternoon for assault with dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Ren was taken before the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing. A \$10,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary release.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched last July 8 at 2:38am to the parking lot of Pretty Tour Company in Garapan, where he met with the bloodied victim, Lin.

Pangelinan said Lin reported

that his boss, Ren, attacked him with a golf club at Camille’s Apartment in As Matuis.

Pangelinan said during her interview, Lin alleged that he has been working for Ren over a year now as a house staff located at Camille’s Apartment.

Lin said he was sleeping last July 8 inside his apartment unit when Ren walked into his room and started yelling at him for not changing the dirty bed sheet.

Ren allegedly took a metal bicycle pump and hit Lin’s forehead and the top of his head. He also allegedly grabbed Lin and punched him several times on the chest.

Ren’s girlfriend came and stopped him from assaulting Lin. Ren asked Lin to step outside by the pool area, where they would cool down and talk.

At the pool area, Ren, however, allegedly continued shouting at Lin and hit his back with a golf club. Ren’s girlfriend managed to stop the defendant from further attacking Lin. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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Guam/Saipan	Eastern U.S. Cities	\$1,347.05	\$1,427.05	5 days	30 days	SEP 16, 2016 - DEC 14, 2016 JAN 16, 2017 - APR 30, 2017	AUG 31, 2016

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Propst: Island-wide trash problem growing concern

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) wants to give attention to the growing trash problem in the CNMI.

"Everybody is affected by this, the reason I want to talk about this is that it is an ongoing issue that has been going on for decades, always looking for a solution to this problem," Propst said while serving as one of the guest speaker in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Propst said that the waste problem is only getting worse instead of getting better and as a representative of

the community he receives regular calls regarding illegal dumpsites.

"If tourism is our No. 1 industry, if we want to have a beautiful island, and a jewel of the Pacific that we can be proud of, we need to get to the bottom of this and do something about it."

Propst shared while helping clear one of the illegal dumpsites in a village one day, some students voluntarily helped pick up trash and he said that it was encouraging. "Right in broad daylight, people were bringing their trash;



Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) addresses Rotary Club of Saipan members on the issue of illegal dumping and island-wide trash collection in yesterday's meeting at the Giovanni's restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

everyone just decided that it was a dumping ground," according to Propst.

"The reason I'm showing you this is not to paint an ugly picture or saying that we're slob, there's just a problem with other people who don't have any issues with throwing their trash everywhere," said Propst.

"We need to have a fair share in this; because some of our local organizations are underfunded they have so much to do other than drive around the island." There have been some suggestions, according to Propst, to have trash bins on the beaches, public areas,

parks, and everywhere else."

"We want to get the government agencies involved, and of course private companies, the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, everybody involved to create an island-wide litter task force to address the problem once and for all."

Propst also aims to have a universal trash collection as a longterm solution to this problem. "It can be done. A large part of the population has no money to pay for trash collection," said Propst.

An anti-littering bill is in the works at the House of Representatives after the Senate made some amendments. *(Mackenzie Perez)*

Ridge to Reef Eco Camp held on Tinian

The 2016 Tinian Ridge to Reef Eco Camp was held last June 13-16. Students and high school volunteer counselors participated in a series of half-day activities to learn more about watersheds, and how our actions on land impact our oceans and reefs.

Eco camp participants explored their watershed from ridge to reef through learning about agricultural best practices, hiking and exploring in a limestone forest, conducting a beach cleanup at Long Beach and learning about the detrimental impacts of marine debris, and finally spent a morning learning about our coral reefs and snorkeling at



Participants of the 2016 Tinian Ridge to Reef Eco Camp pose for a group photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tachonga Beach.

This 2016 Tinian Ridge to Reef Eco Camp would not have been possible without the support of all event partners.

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality-Division of Coastal Resources management staff would like to thank and recognize our co-coordinator, Keith Nabors, of the Tinian Community Guidance Center, Prevention Unit.

BECQ-CRM would also like to recognize the staff from Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service-Tinian who led "Agriculture" day—organizing presentations, a farm visit, and a healthy cooking class; BECQ's Recycling coordinator Aileen Benavente, who gave a presentation on recycling and waste management, Tony Castro from the Ecology of Bird Loss project, for facilitating a limestone forest hike and scavenger hunt; Jolly Ann Cruz and Wayne Dawe of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance for facilitating a clean-up at Long Beach and related marine debris programming, and finally the Tinian DLNR director Gil Borja for presenting on the importance of marine protected areas.

BECQ-CRM would also like to recognize our various other supporting and sponsoring agencies: the Tinian Health Center; the Tinian Municipal Council, which provided snacks for the participants throughout the camp; DCRM's Tinian staff member, Edwin Hofschneider for providing on-site logistics help; Tinian Fire and EMS, who were on-site at Tachonga Beach for our snorkeling activity; and finally the Typhoon Sports Association for providing water for the duration of the camp.

"Camp was yet again a great success and learning experience! Thank you to the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior for continuing to fund this opportunity," said BECQ-CRM. *(PR)*

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MVA: Chinese arrivals to surpass Koreans

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chinese tourist numbers are bound to surpass Korean visitors, which are two of the CNMI's key markets as Japanese arrivals continue to decrease, according to a recent study by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

During a five-year period, Chinese arrivals went up by 25 percent from 15 percent in 2011 to 40 percent last year, while the Korean tourist arrivals vary from 34 percent (2013) to 40 percent 2015. The Korean arrivals are at 35 percent in 2011, 2012, and 2014.

China's outbound travel market increased by close to 200 percent, from 7.1 million in 1995 to 133 million in

early this year buoyed by the strong economic gains by the Asian giant. More than half of those travelers are millennials, who wanted to try new experiences.

Korea, on the other hand, has 38 percent of its population traveling overseas and the number is expected to breach the 20-million mark by the end of the year. The rapid growth of the low cost carrier market is one of the factors seen in the Korean outbound market.

Korea is Asia's fourth largest economy and 13th in the world with the country's economic growth going up from 2.6 percent in 2015 to 2.8 percent this year. Unemployment has also gone down to 3.2 percent from 3.6 percent last year.

These numbers are what

the MVA wanted to capitalize on while also hoping to revive the once vibrant Japanese tourism market. The MVA sees the new offshore representations that they awarded to the winning bidders would further help the CNMI tourism industry.

Skywalker Communications Group was awarded a contract to handle the China market while Access Inc. holds huge task of reviving the Japanese tourism in the CNMI. AVIAREPS has a wider scope, as it would take on

Korea, Taiwan, and Russia

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, thanked the eight-member selection committee that chose which companies would provide offshore representation, press releases, and other promotional activities of the MVA in the said markets.

"The MVA board ratified the results submitted by this committee in our last board meeting on July 19 and we are ready to move forward effective Oct. 1. We congratulate

the winners. Tourism is our only industry in the CNMI so this decision was critically important," said Concepcion.

Concepcion added the CNMI tourism industry is moving into a new era as evident by the rapid development that's taking place right now, that's why he is asking the co-operation of all sectors in the community.

"We urge our partners in the public and private sectors to work together to ensure that we are ahead of the curve with this development and

not the other way around. It is so important that we have stable economic growth and that we are in control of everything so that the quality of life for our residents is enhanced," he said.

"We want to reiterate the importance of the MVA in all this development because the work we do to market the CNMI overseas is what fuels all this growth. We need to ensure our funding source is protected in order for us to carry out our mission as an organization."



JON PEREZ

Tourist arrivals to the CNMI is expected to further increase with several airlines launching direct flights to Saipan and the Marianas Visitors Authority tapping the services of three agencies that would help market the CNMI.

VA Benefits Outreach this Thursday

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach July 28, 2016, from 9am to 3pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. A benefits counselor will be available to answer questions and take claims.

They will also have a VA

Home Loan briefing at the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. from 9am to 11am only. A VA loan officer will be available to answer your questions regarding VA Home Loans.

Points of contact are Ruth Coleman, 322-0035, Lee Stahl 1-671-648-0090

We are encouraging all veterans, family members, and widower to attend and avail to their services. (PR)




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Philippine Airlines

In memory of John "JP" Pangelinan, the former publisher of the Saipan Tribune. JP left us eight years ago but his memory will remain indelible for those who have been lucky enough to know him. Whether as a colleague, a friend, an uncle, or dad, JP was the quintessential gentleman, full of compassion, good cheer, and always smiling. JP was born on Saipan on October 26, 1937. He died on February 5, 2008 after a long, brave battle with cancer.

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FILL OUT THIS PORTION AND DROP IT OFF AT

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KagES releases sked for SY'16-'17

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia T. Demapan is welcoming parents and guardians of the school's incoming students for school year 2016-2017. She said it's the school's pleasure to inform them of the following schedule:

■ Aug. 11: Parent/student orientation for grades K-2nd, 10am-11am, cafeteria

■ Aug. 12: Parent/student orientation for grades 3rd-5th, 10am-11am, cafeteria

■ Aug. 15: First day of instruction for all students (K-5th), 7:30am-2pm.

During the parent and student orientation day, the teach-

ers will present to meet with parents and of share instructional goals and expectations for the school year.

"We hope that our great moms and dads will be able to attend the above scheduled event, so that, you will be knowledgeable of our school continuous improvement plans and to become our partners in your child(ren)'s education. If you have any questions please call us at 664-3911," said Demapan

"Thank you and I look forward to see you all at our August pre-opening school activities. Your participation is greatly appreciated," she added. **(PR)**

Military exercises at W-517 this Thursday

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. military unit will be conducting military exercises at W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon south of Guam this July 28 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, acting governor Victor B. Hocog is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from these areas during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and under-

standing of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center-Dispatch Center at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. **(PR)**

One Guam Water Integration ribbon-cutting ceremony this Thursday

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas (JRM) and Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) will be hosting a One Guam Water Integration ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Tumon Maui Well in Upper Tumon,

Thursday, July 28 from 10am to 11:30am.

The ceremony signifies the official reopening and leasing of the Navy's Tumon Maui Well to GWA and affirms the Navy's commitment to the One Guam pillar.

The well is a Maui-type water well that operates to skim underground fresh water from the thin basal layer. The well was constructed in 1947 and it accounted for a large portion of the water supply until its initial closure in 1995. It was then placed back into service for a short time then closed again in 1999. **(PR)**

JKPL offering Chamorro language classes

Are you interested in learning

the basics of Chamorro? Or do you speak Chamorro or understand Chamorro, and just want to practice your Chamorro language skills?

Well, CNMI Motherhead/Fatheread Family Literacy Program is pleased to offer a free Beginner's Chamorro Literacy Class held at your friendly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this summer!

Read and borrow books translated into Chamorro from our award-winning Motherhead/Fatheread curriculum. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday for the month of July from 5pm to 6pm.

Please call 235-7319/783-7678/285-9666 or email us at cnmmotherhead@gmail.com and sign up today. **(PR)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 27, 2000**New tax system increases collection efficiency**

Faced with pressures to refill stressed public coffers, the Department of Finance is fast-tracking the installation of a new tax system eyed to improve the government's revenue collection capabilities and reduce margin of errors in the processing of tax returns. According to Finance Secretary Lucy G. Nielsen, implementation of the new CNMI tax system is expected to be completed by next year since it is already over 75 percent complete. The finance chief added the new system will pave the road for the proper collection of revenues, as well as allow the taxation division to reduce the margin of errors in the processing of tax returns.

Hotels prod gov't to put in place recycling plan

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has asked government officials to begin implementing a recycling program and an island-wide education campaign to save the island's fragile environment from deteriorating. In a letter addressed to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Senate President Paul Manglona and Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, the hotel executives said their businesses will participate in a recycling plan that the CNMI government will carry out. The letter was signed by six hotel general managers and presidents

who are key officials of HANMI.

July 27, 2004**Anti-counterfeiting bill is now a law**

Law enforcers now have a stronger arm to run after businesses and persons engaged in counterfeiting and selling fake goods, with Gov. Juan N. Babauta signing into law yesterday a legislative bill that criminalizes such activities. Babauta said the law would help curb the proliferation of forgery and counterfeiting activities, which have created a negative impact on trade and commerce in the CNMI. The law also punishes those who knowingly transport counterfeit goods into, out of, or within the CNMI. Offered by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog, Senate Bill 14-32 is now Public Law 14-22, or the Private Labels Protection Act, which provides penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment for violators.

Decline seen in juvenile delinquency numbers

The number of juvenile delinquency cases declined by 36 percent last year due mainly to the Department of Public Safety's temporary abolition of its anti-theft task force, the Division of Youth Services said. The DYS Juvenile Probation Unit reported that it handled a total of 272 cases involving youth offenders in 2003—or a third less than the 478 cases posted in the previous year. The agency attributed the decrease mainly to DPS' decision to assign six of its detectives to devote their time into investigating robbery and burglary cases. The move resulted in the temporary dissolution of the DPS Thief Apprehension Select Coalition. Based on DYS statistics, theft was among the offenses committed by most youths. Despite the suspension of the

anti-theft program in fiscal year 2003, DYS documented 37 theft cases involving minors.

July 27, 2005**PSS: Show me the money**

It's five days to go before the new school year starts but the cash-strapped Public School System is still waiting for the additional funds it needs to repair some schools, especially those that have fallen victim to a spate of burglaries a couple of months ago. In fact, Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente said that this year is the one where they are having the most difficulty in obtaining funds from the central government. During a special board meeting yesterday at the PSS office on Capitol Hill, Benavente said the "light at the end of the dark tunnel" remains dim for them.

Agingan outfall project inches forward

The six-year-overdue construction of an ocean outfall in Agingan is finally moving along, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency providing additional financial support to the project. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now in the process of hiring an architectural and engineering firm to provide consultancy services for the Agingan ocean outfall construction. This comes almost six years after EPA issued an order against CUC over environmental violations at the Agingan wastewater treatment plant. CUC had not been able to comply with the order due to lack of funding. However, acting CUC grants manager Janice Tenorio said yesterday that the utility firm recently received an EPA grant that covers the entire cost of hiring construction management services, as well as part of the actual construction expenses.



Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 16-001

NMC CREES RESEARCH STATION, MAIN STATION VEHICLES

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Procurement of New Pick-up Trucks for CREES Saipan Main Station, As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Wednesday (July 13, 2016) through Friday, between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award #2015-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu). Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., August 15, 2016, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Tim Kock, Ph.D.
Dean, NMC CREES



Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 16-002

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR
SAIPAN

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of an Agricultural Tractor for the CREES Research Farm at As Perdido, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Wednesday, July 13, 2016, between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award #2015-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu). Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., August 16, 2016, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

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Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Tim Kock, Ph.D.
Dean, NMC-CREES

**Pacific Historic Parks**

is seeking a skilled educator to develop and lead education programs with the National Park Service on Saipan.

- Teaching credentials, program management and curriculum development skills are desired.
- The right candidate should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills and be positive, energetic and creative.
- Salary depends on qualifications.
- Excellent benefit package is offered.

Please email resume and cover letter to jbalajadia@pacifichistoricparks.org. Position closes at 5:00 p.m. on August 5, 2016. EEO

SIS welcomes new headmaster

Saipan International School is excited to welcome Ron Snyder as its new headmaster. He has extensive international and multicultural experience, having lived and worked in Germany, Egypt, Pakistan, Venezuela, rural Alaska, Slovakia, Ukraine, Malta, and most recently Ethiopia. He was also a teacher here on Saipan at Tanapag Elementary School from 1996 to 2000.

Snyder, or Mr. Ron as he was known to his Tanapag students, has held many different positions in his 25 years in education. He has been a teacher in every grade from second grade to graduate school, a technology coordinator, a high school principal, an instructional coach, a curriculum coordinator, the director of a global virtual school and now, headmaster at SIS. He believes in a student-centered approach to learning and is excited to put his skills to work at SIS in building a vibrant curriculum and an exciting place to learn. One of his first tasks will be to implement at merit scholarship program at SIS, aimed at attracting new families of high achieving stu-

dents in the areas of academics, athletics and activities.

Snyder is committed to building a community of learners that includes students, teachers and parents. He will be offering graduate classes to his staff as well as to the broader community on Saipan. By putting the student first and building the community around their successes, Snyder hopes to achieve great things at SIS for students, teachers, and parents alike.

Snyder holds a Bachelor's Degree in History, a Master's Degree in International Teaching, a Master's Degree in Education Technology, a Certificate of Educational Leadership, and is currently finishing his Doctor of Education from the University of Bath, England, focusing on factors influencing student motivation and persistence. His studies have concentrated heavily on best practices in curriculum and instructional design, including virtual instruction.

Snyder will be joined by his family as he settles into his new role. His daughter Anika will be entering SIS in the 9th

grade and his niece, Isabel will be entering 11th grade. His wife, Kim, will be teaching at the elementary level this year as well. They are all looking forward to getting reacquainted with old friends and family

on the island and to making many new ones.

SIS launches Merit Scholarship Program

SIS is also happy to announce the start of its Merit Scholar-

ship program for new families during the 2016-17 school year. SIS will be offering up to 20 competitive scholarships to new students in grades 2-9 based on proven excellence in academics, athletics, and/or

activities such as music, art or drama. Each scholarship provides students with a 40 percent discount in tuition fees. Finalists must undergo an entrance exam that includes Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

Please call the SIS office at 288-9660 for more details or visit the campus in As Lito. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan International School administrative staff Mili Saiki shakes hands with the school's new headmaster Ron Snyder.

DCCA chief meets with USDA on food stamp budget



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, second left, is joined by participants for the negotiations in San Francisco. From left, Shahdy Monemzadeh (Food and Nutrition Service), Hunter, Maribelle Balbes (FNS), Barbara Utuchian (FNS), and Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas.

Prior to Aug. 1 each year, officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and the CNMI meet to discuss policies and funding for the subsequent Federal Fiscal Year.

The FFY 2017 negotiation meetings were held at the Federal Building in San Francisco from July 6 to July 7, 2016. Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter described the meetings to be very good as several policy changes and budget item requests were adopted. Hunter also met with Jesus Mendoza, Regional administrator for USDA-FNS West-

ern Regional Office, Dennis Stewart, Division director for SNAP.

DCCA administers the CNMI's Nutrition Assistance Program.

Hunter also had the opportunity to meet with federal officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living who oversees the grants administered by the Office on Aging. The officials were David Ishida, Regional Administrator for ACL for Regions IX and X, Dennis Dudley, Aging Services Program specialists, and Fong Yee, Aging Services Program specialist. **(PR)**

Ballot measure for marijuana legalization, regulation

CNMI voters may have an opportunity to join California and other states who will be voting on ballot measures aimed at repealing the failed policy of marijuana prohibition and replacing this with a sensible policy that brings marijuana and hemp into a legal framework to allow for the regulation and taxation of the plant, for medical, personal, industrial, and other purposes.

The California Secretary of State's Office has certified an initiative for the November 8 election that will allow voters to consider whether or not to legalize, regulate, and tax recreational marijuana.

The initiative has already received endorsements from California's Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, the American Medical Association of California, the California Democratic Party, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, the Drug Policy Alliance, and others.

"Today marks a fresh start for California as we prepare to replace the costly, harmful and

ineffective system of prohibition with a safe, legal and responsible adult-use marijuana system that gets it right and completely pays for itself," according to Jason Kinney, a spokesman for California's Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA).

Backers of the initiative hope to follow the lead of other progressive states that have chosen to regulate and tax recreational marijuana sales, to include Oregon, Colorado, Alaska, Washington, and Washington, D.C. At least eight other states will have similar marijuana initiatives on the ballot this November.

The Adult Use of Marijuana act would allow adults ages 21 and older to possess, transport and use up to an ounce of cannabis for recreational purposes and would allow individuals to grow as many as six plants.

Similar legislation is being proposed here in the CNMI in the form of the Commonwealth Marijuana Regulation Act (CMRA), introduced by

Sen. Sixto Igisomar and referenced as Senate Bill SB 19-106, as a legislatively referred commonwealth initiative that he hopes will be approved by his fellow colleagues for inclusion in the CNMI's 2016 election ballot. The senator had this to say about the proposed legislation, "It's time for the CNMI to move from our current unregulated system to a regulated system for marijuana that will do a better job of protecting children and improving access for citizens with medical conditions that may benefit from use of marijuana. Regulating and taxing the production, processing, and retail sales of marijuana will create new jobs and a revenue source that can be used to support the general fund, funding to support our hospital, public schools, and the life of our retirees."

The Commonwealth Marijuana Regulation Act is a consensus measure that is modeled after Oregon's Marijuana

law which encompasses the recognized best management practices to control, regulate, and tax marijuana and hemp. The act is furthermore informed by the eight federal guidelines concerning marijuana enforcement that were developed by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2014. The act has been adapted to local needs and conditions with input from medical professionals, law enforcement, patients, growers, the citizens group Sensible CNMI, and others who participated in public hearings and committee meetings.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report 2011, the Northern Mariana Islands ranked second in the world for cannabis (marijuana) use at 22 percent, when compared to other countries and based on the percentage of adults and youth (ages 15-64), who have consumed cannabis in the past year. **(PR)**

Guam court sentences 'ice' supplier to 108 months in jail

United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco announced that Franklin John Salas was yesterday sentenced by District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to serve 108 months incarceration followed by three years of supervised release, with credit for time served.

Salas pled guilty on Dec.

9, 2014, to attempted possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. Section 846(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C).

Salas attempted to receive 52.6 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride at the Barrigada Post Office on Oct. 29, 2014. The methamphetamine was concealed within card-sized envelopes

and sent from Las Vegas, Nevada to Guam where it was intercepted by the U.S. Postal Inspector. The Drug Enforcement Administration Forensic Laboratory determined that the methamphetamine had a high purity level of 98.8 percent.

U.S. Attorney Limtiaco notes that methamphetamine hydrochloride is associated with violent crimes and has

a devastating effect on individuals and the community. The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to the aggressive prosecution of cases involving drug distribution.

The investigation was conducted by the Guam U.S. Postal Inspector and Drug Enforcement Administration. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rosetta San Nicolas. **(PR)**

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

As Democrats pander: Let's rescue Social Security before we expand it

"We have to signal seriousness in this by making sure some of the hard decisions are made under my watch, not someone else's. ... You have to have a president who is willing to spend some political capital on this. And I intend to spend some."

President-elect Barack Obama to The Washington Post Editorial Board, pledging to reform unsustainable Social Security and Medicare programs, Jan. 15, 2009

Got a moment before politicians at the Democratic National Convention begin promising to expand Social Security benefits? This won't take long: Ask a young co-worker or relative what she or he expects to collect in retirement from Social Security. You'll likely get a civil "nothing," though aggrieved millennials can go quickly from zero to foamy.

Young Americans generally understand what Obama's administration warned in late June: Social Security's trust funds, now paying benefits to 60 million Americans, are projected to be insolvent in 18 years. Medicare's main trust fund, which provides hospital coverage to 55 million people, will pay out its last dollar in 12 years — two years earlier than projected in 2015.

None of which will stop the math-defying pols from telling all of us how much they want to bolster but also expand Social Security. To which logical thinkers retort: If you fraidy-cats ever do the former, we'll talk about doing the latter.

One weakness of pandering politicians is that they'd rather give away stuff than pay for it. Hence a national debt — owed by all of us taxpayers — that they have driven to just shy of \$20 trillion.

Merely rescuing Social Security would involve raising payroll tax rates, or reducing some people's expected benefits, or delaying the retirement age, or all three. Smaller tweaks, such as using a less generous inflation index, would buy meager relief. In one budget negotiation that ended badly, Obama was open to this sort of thing — until Capitol Hill Democrats found out and told him to forget it. They figured voters would punish them, even though small changes would delay Social Security's approaching insolvency.

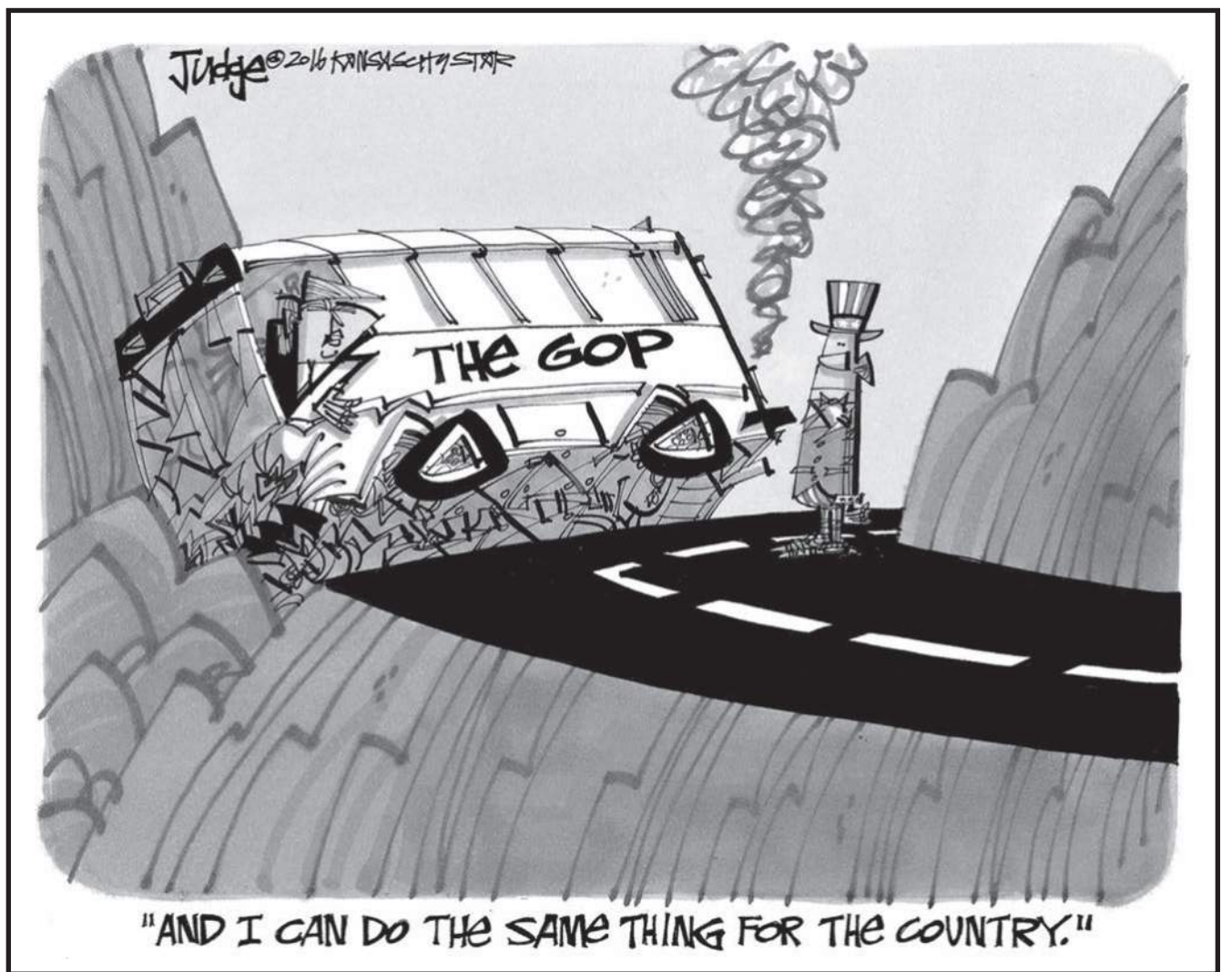
But just salvaging Social Security is, for many Democrats in 2016, an obsolete goal. Bernie Sanders tugged the notion of expanding the program into this presidential campaign. Hillary Clinton, not to be out-pandered, joined in with earnest but vague intentions to assist widows, widowers and family caregivers. Donald Trump even more vaguely says he'll save Social Security without cutting benefits.

By last month, Obama was touting expansion, although he alluded to the inexorable arithmetic that, without a rescue, zeros out the trust funds: He said Washington should strengthen the program but also raise benefits. Sounds good!

But Obama's notion of how to do either? His vow that "some of the hard decisions are made under my watch, not someone else's"? His willingness "to spend some political capital on this"? Even as a lame duck, he dares not quack.

You'd think 18 years is a long time. In this realm of inexorable math, it's nanoseconds. From the nonpartisan Commit-

See **DEMOCRATS** on Page 10



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Pinadesen Diskuidu

Gi konbetsasion-hu yan tautau-ta siha gi seŋsoŋg mampos chagu` sentimentun niha yan liŋguahen manma-elihe gi hegsu imperadot I Deni`.

Mapañot 20 años sin subida (hatsada) gi sued-don niha mientras ma-apagaye kumahulu` presiun mantension familia siha gi parehu na tiempu.

I mas man-inaminasa na tautau-ta i mañasaga giya Tinian yan Luta. Mampos guaguan fektus nesessidat na todú familia man-mamatmos gi halom fache` didog na sapet.

Kau magahet na guaha ayudu gi maribahan presiun neñkanu` pot gaige i batkon familialan Biktot Hokog MV Luta? Kau ayudu este na batku gi nesessidat familia siha giya Tinian?

Man-mañgge representanten iya Tinian tat kumu si Francisco Borja, Francisco Cruz yan Jude Hofschneider gi este na asunto yan kau haf` bidan niha pot ausiliu gi familia siha? Fuera de mabende lalala` i industrian casino giya Tinian, man-kakahat pot no uma-oppe kuestion i didog na chinatsagan famiia siha. Guaha motibu na mampos hamyu man-silensiu?

Masusesede inipos gueku katpetan miyu chechu` linahyan` nai in` fa` offisina i halom ruplanu sa` kada ratu hamyu mañgarera pot politikan petsonat. Mientras tantus mas in` liñu` linala` i tau-tau gi hilu` oppan na diskuidun miyu! Insuttu gi intellihenten tautau Tinian. Dios tiampare na che`chu` muron yan tatamudu!

Mañan Dihada

Man-mata i patgon inalulula para u amotsa gi kafeteria. Gi kare-ra, uchan. Malagu i patgon lau masmai todú, kontodu meyasña ni aplacha` yan paguan. Umamotsa dispues` nai humanau para i kuattoña. Libianu sinagu sa` fofotgun magagu yan meyasña.

I sigiente dia chinilili` e ni amiguña otu pat meyas. Ha agrade-se ayudon gachoñña. Geftau i amiguña` nos pot guaha lau ha kom-prende pineple. Poresu na ha sakrifisia meyasña mismu para i mauleg na amiguña. Suette sa` ha tope yo` ase` na amigu.

Humasuda` yu` dispues yan ayu na patgon. Kalagtos yan anog na makreansa mauleg as nanaña. Gi oran sentada, timalagu` totche solu kechap. Era ayu pinayoña i hinegsa` ni mana` ye di-didi` sirasime` yan kechap. Nina` e ni lahihi inestufa` un manog.

Hu konbetsiasune para bai` keli` e haye mañainaña yan otu

siha asunto. Fuetsan nana sumustetene i patgon. Ti sumeha macho`chu` gi finagpu` eskuela para lepbloña yan otu siha tras-tes eskuela. Namagof!

Kontentu hinasog-hu sa` klaru na desde pinatgoña, maseha sin tata, guaha areglu ginen disposision nanaña. Puede felis todú gi kareraña!

Un` amot ni hila`ña

Ti namanman i hita mismu kumontradidise haf` amtau para tatatiye kontra haf` ta petsisige. Desde ke manmata ta finu Eñlis dispues ta sotta primet edukasion i patgon guatu gi eskuela. Gi finu` man-amku`, che`chu` dihada este na maña saina.

Ayu mina` ha estotoba-yu` haf` ma-atitisa pot liñguahe ni ti man-a`afagcha` yan haf` gaige gi puntan sekos-ta. Un` praktika una kosa yan un` kontra gi sigiente birada. Mauleg tana aya pal-abra yan eksisiun haf` tasasañgan.

Kontodu famaguon famaguon-hu puru finu` Eñglis, diariu. Memegaiña man-gaige guihe lagu ayu mina` timatuñgu hila` nanan niha. Magahet na man-lagse parehu ha` edukau na kon-betsasion finu` Eñglis yan matuge. I mohon ya finu` Chamorro` nai mapega finu` niha.

Asolas, mafattu tristen sentimentog-hu sa` kareran para uma-enteru i finu` Chamorro. Ta`lu 20 años ya mafnas enteramente finu` natibu guine siha na perlas. Ni “cultural identity” i natibu na tiempu kuando menos gi ge`fena.

Yangin para umareskata dispues siempre halom kuattro na lu-gan eskuela` nai mapega obligasion ni debi dos saina u tinituhon gi halom guma` familia. Lau kase estague` na chalan ta petsisige pa`gu. Ti namanman` nai dispues i ineyag liñguahe petmanente ginen eskuela pot chafleg na satbasion.

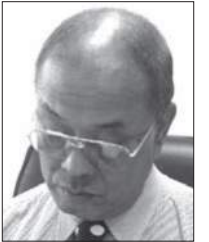
Pasensia na finu` saina

Mafattu mahalañg-hu` an hu hassu tatte finu` biau gi konbet-sasion mame. Motmut pinasensia yan amtau na inapagat gi fina` estoria. Esta i chalegña mañge` mahuñgog. Este na eskaleran finu` amku` esta maliñgu gi halom natibu.

I to`a na dopbladan palabra` nai anog haf` amtau na konbet-sasion gi entalu` siha yan bisinu antes. Pindedoñg palabra, mase-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

ha pot mañgopblan dibi, na`magof sasañña. Kumeke ileghu na mana` esgin un` banda lau klaru haf` sessu finatoña i prohimu. Antes de u birague` para iya siha siempre ilegña i mandidibi, “Un` ratu ha`, estague` para si nana-mu ya un` gagauye-yu` dis-pensu sa` kulan atrasau”.

Mattu gi siña tapo`lu kumu amtau na finu` diplomatiku` nai ha komple haf` malago`ña gi hilu` motmut na pinasensia. `Nai hu plan-ta-yu` gi taiguihe na eskaleran konbetsasion hihot mahlog i haguhan tatkilu` haga` sa` sumen tai pinasensia-yu`. Ai dios mihu, Iku!

Katma yan suabe

`An hu fagcha` e sustansiau na asunto, hu diskuattisa yan analisa haf` guaha gi todú atmo banda dispues` nai sumeha-yu` man-hassu kuestion siha antes de bai` fama` disision.

Hagas hu akustumbra este na eksisiu desde antes. Ayu` nai libianu hu li`e asunto gi hilu` kinemprende kontodu haf` man-sañgan gi matan tautau ni ti ekspresia dibuenamente. Gaige ka-bales sentimentun niha gi matan niha. Estague` baliña umeyag umekuñgog kabales.

Yangin guaha kinentra, pues haf` na puntu` nai ti umafagcha` yan kau siña madiskute kumu puntun inadiñgan estake monhay-an. Ginen este na attura` nai mas libianu ta establese inakom-prende ginen todú atmos banda.

Presisu este na modun inadiñgan para umakomprende ni tau-tau-ta na siña guaha inafamauleg ni achog ti parehu na opiñion. Todú u fan hanau para iya siha mañgontentu na masañgan hinas-sun niha kabales. Ni unu u layu`.

Hana` hahassu-yu` finu man-amko`ta antes gi inetnon huntan i seŋsoŋg. I man-menhalom umesgaihon i inadiñgan gi hilu` areglu. Hasan inadisgustu. Todú mañgonfotme. Ayu dispues` nai malagnos fina` fresku na gimen yan mirienda` nai mana` finu mas puntun niha.

Este na attura` nai tana` mansu kustumbren impitu. Dispues de todú man-adiñgu gi hilu` pas. Mina` hu diskute este pot hagas man-agu`ot hit mahetog gi hilu` imbidiu` nai ti man-afagcha` hinasso-ta. Lau gi hilu` kabales na inadiñgan amtau na attura` nai mas libianu ta soda` ginefsaga-ta.

SPIRIT

From Page 10

come more convenient than the pier and the wharf to traverse from one place to another. The subtlety of ancient wisdom and its accompanying cultural ways has been taken over by the utilitarianism of modern times, with an eye more on expenditure, translated into monetary cost rather than effort, of the dynamic engagement of a wayfarer to the means of transport that accommodates the two-bag passenger.

In 2016, the world of spirit is no longer the “hocus-pocus” executed by the hierarchical structures of bygone days, whether at the altar of Holy Mother Mary, or the incantation at the Utt and the men’s houses of serious and suntanned sailors. The world of spirit is at the core of mundane and ordinary existence, seen in the wonder of a breadfruit dropping from its tree, ripened by the sun or pushed over by the pecking of a bird, or the blooming of the plumeria in one’s yard, or, yet still, in the cry of a young tot when the popsicle drops off the wooden stick to the ground.

The world of spirit is living life itself, not at the periphery of existence, or longing that something may be added to it, the plus factor that we all aspire for, but plumbing the abyss at its core knowing that the gift of life is the most valuable entity on earth we cannot afford to throw away.

“This is the day we have,” my students started their day. “We can live this day, or throw it away. This is the day we have.”

Let it be, crooned the Beatles, and we followed suit for a long while. We live in paradise isle with all its spirits. We decide that; we choose who we are and will be!

Donald Trump and the Tim Kaine effect

It was Friday, July 22, 2016, at 7:32 pm when the Democrat U.S. Senator from Virginia, Tim Kaine, was called by Hillary Clinton, who graciously announced him that he was her vice-presidential pick for the November general elections.

Starting from this moment, Donald Trump needs to quickly get out of the Cleveland Republican National Convention ambience and calculate his next steps, in order to neutralize the Tim Kaine effect, which will probably reshape the first part of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, held from July 25 to 28 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

There are at least five factors, embodied in as many swing states, which the fresh Republican presidential nominee needs to take into account and neutralize their counter-effects, if he still wants to become the next President of the United States.

1. Ohio

Accomplishments: organizing the GOP National Convention in the Buckeye State; many voters, like the influential Peter Thiel, a billionaire PayPal co-founder and Silicon Valley investor, are locals or grew up there.

Things to neutralize: John Kasich’s passivity – the Ohio governor, and Trump’s former challenger, chose to become invisible during the Cleveland GOP Convention, although his responsibilities included some logistical and state security measures during the event.

2. Pennsylvania

Accomplishments: Trump eventually won the state bound and unbound delegates during the Republican primaries.

Things to neutralize: Pat Toomey, the U.S. senator for Pennsylvania, chose not to show up in Cleveland, just like Kasich; the Democratic National Convention is held in Philadelphia.

3. Florida

Accomplishments: Trump won all Florida delegates in the primaries.

Things to neutralize: Marco Rubio’s weak support—the U.S. senator for Florida, a former Trump challenger, chose not to show up in Cleveland, although he delivered a televised speech; Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine have a rally in Miami on Satur-

By TIBERIU DIANU

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Tiberiu Dianu is a scholar and author of several books and articles in law and post-communist societies. He studied law, human rights, and criminal justice at the universities of Bucharest (Romania), Strasbourg (France), Oxford and Manchester (U.K.), American University (Washington, DC), and University of Maryland at College Park (Maryland). He currently lives in Washington, DC, where he works for various government and private agencies.

day, July 23; Kaine spent a year in Honduras (between 1980 and 1981) helping Jesuit missionaries who ran a Catholic school in the country, and he is fluent in Spanish.

4. Virginia

Accomplishments: Trump won the Virginia Republican primaries, although Marco Rubio came as a close second.

Things to neutralize: Tim Kaine has a long career as a Virginia politician, serving as a Richmond mayor (1998-2001), and the state Lieutenant Governor (2002-2006), governor (2006-2010), and U.S. Senator (2013 to date).

5. Another Mid-West State

Accomplishments: Mike Pence, the Indiana governor, and Trump’s pick for vice-president; Trump also won most of the Mid-West states in the Republican primaries.

Things to neutralize: Tim Kaine was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and graduated from the University of Missouri.

Especially during the following week, supposedly dominated by the Democratic National Convention, but also after that, Donald Trump must maintain himself in the center of the news, neutralizing by well thought strategic moves the adverse effects for his presidential campaign, triggered in these must-win aforementioned states by the recent events.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly sunny. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲89° ▼79°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.

▲89° ▼79°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.

▲89° ▼79°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲90° ▼80°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲90° ▼80°

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 5:00 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough could be found on last nights surface analysis just to the east of the Marianas. An upper-level low could be found north of Saipan. The combination of the surface trough and upper low brought scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the Marianas this morning. Expect scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms through the morning as the trough will move west and pass across the local area. Showers will become isolated after noon, but enough instability will remain to keep a chance of thunderstorms in the forecast through the day. Models show low-level convergence tonight through Wednesday night plus another surface trough passing over the Marianas on Thursday. Models depict shower coverage as patchy and while brief periods of scattered showers are possible overall coverage should remain isolated.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia ▼ ▲		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	85 / 93 °F
Palau	Heavy rain	80 / 85 °F
Yap	Heavy rain	78 / 90 °F
Chuuk	Cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Strong thunderstorms	80 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Morning clouds	82 / 86 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	83 / 86 °F

Around the Globe ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Cloudy	52 / 59 °F
Beijing	Sunny	74 / 94 °F
Hong Kong	Afternoon clouds	85 / 91 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 85 °F
London	Partly sunny	67 / 85 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	66 / 86 °F
Manila	Cloudy	80 / 95 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	46 / 52 °F
Miami	Mostly sunny	82 / 89 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	74 / 92 °F
Osaka	Partly sunny	73 / 84 °F
Paris	Partly sunny	57 / 75 °F
Pusan	Sunny	79 / 89 °F
Rome	Sunny	66 / 93 °F
Salem	Mostly sunny	59 / 89 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	54 / 73 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	75 / 87 °F
Tokyo	Partly sunny	72 / 84 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	75 / 91 °F

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.97 Feet
8:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.16 Feet
3:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.49 Feet
8:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.92 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	-	12:28 PM
Thursday	12:32 AM	1:27 PM
Friday	1:23 AM	2:26 PM
Saturday	2:16 AM	3:25 PM
Sunday	3:12 AM	4:23 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2016														
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS								
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN								
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily					
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily					
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7					
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota					
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily					
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)								
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN								
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6					
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN								
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN								
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1			LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily					
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily					
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7					
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily			OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6					
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily					
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN								
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6					
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN								
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7					
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN								
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6					
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN								
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5					
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN								
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM					
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN					
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN					
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM			PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7					
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4			UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM					
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM					
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR			UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM					
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM											
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM			HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN								
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR			HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4					
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN					
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN					
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM											
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM			STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7			TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM 6:45PM Daily					
						DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY			6:30PM 6:45PM Daily					
						6:30AM 6:45AM Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
						7:30AM 7:45AM Daily			DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY					
						8:30AM 8:45AM Daily			7:00AM 7:15AM Daily					
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Scaling up public health surveillance in Vanuatu with data training

PORT-VILA, Vanuatu—Over 20 health professionals from all six provinces of Vanuatu are in Port-Vila this week to scale up public health surveillance with the Pacific Data for Decision-Making (DDM) training programme.

The weeklong training is jointly organized by Vanuatu Ministry of Health and the Pacific Community (SPC) as part of the recovery activities in response to Cyclone Pam project, funded by the German Development Bank (KfW).

The project covers four Pacific Island countries—Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu—following a EUR 6 million funding agreement between SPC and development bank KfW, on behalf of the Government of Germany.

Surveillance is a core public health activity, which guides intervention based on the continuous review and analysis of occurrence of diseases with outbreak and emergency potential such as dengue fever or diabetes.

It involves the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of large volumes of data and information originating from a variety of sources.

“This is the first ever training in public health surveillance organized in Vanuatu and it has attracted a lot of participants. Clinical, public health and laboratory staff from all our provinces are attending the training,” Officer in Charge of the Public Health Division of Vanuatu, Jean-Jacques Rory, said.

Two public health professionals from Tuvalu have also been invited to participate in the training session this week.

The program consists of five modules on public health surveillance, disease outbreak investigations, introduction of epidemiology and field epidemiology, computing for public health practice and a field epidemiology project.

The first two modules of DDM will be conducted in Vanuatu with funding support from KfW and the Australian Aid funded Response and Analysis for Pacific Infectious Diseases (RAPID) project.

Three epidemiologists and one laboratory expert from SPC will conduct the courses in collaboration with colleagues from the World Health Organization.

“The Pacific DDM training program is the result of great collaborative work between several epidemiologists and laboratory experts from countries and partner agencies of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network,” SPC acting team leader of Surveillance and Operational Research, Onofre Edwin Merilles Jr. said.

“Since August 2013, over 220 health workers around the region have commenced the program, which is well received by participants,” Merilles added.

DDM was revitalized in 2013 in response to a call for action in strengthening capacity in data analysis, surveillance and epidemiology, from Pacific health ministers. **(PR)**

AS TOC HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE

Triple J Motors donates 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander SE

As part of its longstanding commitment to supporting volunteer-driven projects that benefit the community, Triple J Motors Saipan today announced that it is donating a brand new 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander SE, 7-passenger SUV that will be used as a hole-in-one prize at the upcoming 21st Governor's Tournament of Champions.

“Funds raised from the Governor's Tournament of Champions have been used to pay for important destination-enhancement projects throughout Saipan,” said Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele. “We are delighted to be part of this year's event again and wish all the players good luck!”

“Triple J Motors' donation of a vehicle known for its visual appeal and hi-tech capabilities will be a great draw for golfers,” said Ben Babauta, tournament director. “We are thankful for the company's donation and

commitment to the tournament all these years.”

The 21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on Aug. 6 and 7. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole in one prizes, and the chance to walk away with over thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is \$200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive \$500 cash, \$400 for second, \$300 for third, a GoPro camera to fourth, and \$100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive \$500, \$400 for second, and \$300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy. On top of all the great awards and prizes all

winners will also receive a special Triple J Winners Bag, filled with gift certificates and other goodies from Triple J Saipan's affiliated businesses.

Over hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of prizes is at stake in the two-day tournament, including a \$10,000 hole-in-one cash prize courtesy of Pacifica Insurance. Other hole in one prizes include a brand-new 2016 Toyota Highlander courtesy of Atkins Kroll (Toyota) and a one-year of free golf donated by Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

Since its inception, the Governor's Tournament of Champions has given over \$700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed

funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

“We are proud of our continued commitment to enhance the beauty of Saipan for our tourists and residents,” Babauta, said. “It is the generous support of our golfers, sponsors and committee members that make this event possible year after year.”

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2016 TOC, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530 or Nicole Babauta at 235-2553. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocsaipan.com.

For more information about Triple J Motors Saipan, “Like” the Triple J Motors Saipan Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TJMSPN and the Triple J Motors website at www.carssaipan.com. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the planning committee for the 2016 Governor's Tournament of Champions pose with Triple J Motors representatives in front of the 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander SE that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize at the event. The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 6 and 7 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort. Also in photo is the first lady Diann Torres, right, together with some members from the Governor's Office and Lt. Governor's office.

Community to learn about projects supported by Tourist Attraction Fund

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—Various nonprofit organizations receiving pass-through appropriations from the Tourist Attraction Fund will be given the opportunity to appraise the public of the outcomes of their grant funding.

Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes will hold an informational hearing on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2016 from 8am to 2pm to discuss the merit of their projects.

“This informational hearing will allow the community to discover the work of these nonprofits, what they have accomplished with their pass-through appropriation from the Tourist Attraction Fund, and how their work benefits the island,” stated Muña Barnes.

The pass-through appropriations funded in fiscal year 2016 from the

Tourist Attraction Fund provided financial assistance to organizations like the Ayuda Foundation for their project envisioning the ancient Chamorro village of Litekyan offering the people of Guam and visitors a glimpse of the Ancient Chamorro life; Haya' Foundation and their work with Suruhanu's and traditional Chamorro medicine; as well as organizations such as the Guam International Film Festival, Guam Symphony Society, Duk Duk Goose, Inc. that present Guam's heritage and culture in new way.

Additionally, pass-through appropriations provided funding for the Micronesian Cruise Association to develop a plan for Guam's Cruise Industry and Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA) providing

grants for local entrepreneurs; preservation efforts with the Historic Inalahan Foundation and Humatak Foundation; and the Tourism Education Council's work in advancing tourism related education.

“We need to continue to support the various nonprofit organizations that work to perpetuate our culture, language, and heritage as well as foster new economic opportunities for the people of Guam,” said Muña Barnes. “Accordingly, we have to account for the merit of their projects funded with public money and justify it as we face this deficit.”

Pass-through appropriations are working in tandem with our tourism goals to develop and diversify our tourism industry by expanding our cultural resources and promot-

ing our heritage. These organizations fill in the gap of services needed for our people to take advantage of new opportunities and enrich their understanding of their culture and heritage.

“I'm very appreciative of all the work these nonprofit organizations have been able to provide for our people and I'm glad their work will be available for the public to utilize in the future,” says

Muña Barnes, “Many of these organizations have been able to deliver a return of investment tenfold in new opportunities created for cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs as well as in learning and reference materials and literature that the people of Guam can use to benefit their understanding of the Chamorro culture.” **(PR)**

Business

Verizon could boost Yahoo ad targeting, but challenges ahead

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon's deal for Yahoo could give the phone company a stronger foothold in digital advertising as it takes what it knows about its customers' whereabouts and combines that with Yahoo's popular destinations and AOL's advertising expertise.

To boost traffic and revenue even more, Verizon could also ship some phones with Yahoo apps already installed.

Ultimately, Verizon could do what Yahoo alone could not: make money off its highly trafficked properties, such as Yahoo Sports and Yahoo Finance.

But Verizon also faces the same challenges a stand-alone Yahoo had: how to get better ad rates through personalization and targeting, when Google and Facebook are already adept at that.

Although the new Verizon would be No. 3 in the \$60 billion U.S. market for digital advertising, "one shouldn't delude themselves into thinking that it's a close third place," MoffettNathanson analyst Craig Moffett said. "They're third place in a two-player market. Ad dollars are going to Google and Facebook and they're coming out of everyone else."

According to eMarketer, Google and Facebook had a combined 55 percent of the U.S. digital-ad market last year, while a combined Ve-



Logos are seen on a laptop, Monday, July 25, 2016, in North Andover, Mass. Verizon is buying Yahoo for \$4.83 billion, marking the end of an era for a company that once defined the Internet.

rizon and Yahoo would have had just 6 percent.

Marketers could be drawn by Verizon's ability to know where its phone users are, but that might apply only to Verizon's customers—not to other Yahoo users around the world. Meanwhile, Facebook and Google already have a lot of that data—Facebook through its social network, and Google through its Android phone system and popular services like maps, email and search.

Like many other major broadband providers, Verizon wants to be more than a "dumb pipe" that just provides internet access, Colum-

bia Business School professor Rita McGrath said.

Verizon wants to build a business that can make money off the ever-growing amount of time people spend on their phones. To that end, it has invested in digital-ad businesses and mobile video, including the creation of go90, a video service aimed at millennials.

With its \$4.4 billion purchase of AOL last year, Verizon got technology that matches ads with websites like Huffington Post and TechCrunch. With Yahoo, which Verizon is buying for \$4.8 billion, Verizon will get websites, apps and other services used

by more than a billion people worldwide each month.

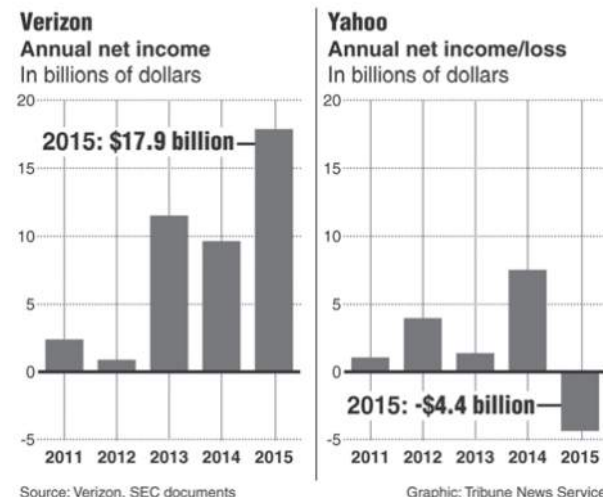
Verizon can use AOL's ad technology to sell ads and make more money off those Yahoo properties, whether on a computer or phone. Forrester analyst Dan Bieler said Verizon and AOL will be better than Yahoo was at using Yahoo's user data and wide range of apps and media properties to sell ads.

Ultimately, AOL's ad-sales technology could encourage brands to spend more money across a range of Yahoo websites and apps.

But some analysts aren't sure that a troubled Yahoo can

Verizon acquiring Yahoo

The telecommunication company announced it will acquire Yahoo's operations for 4.83 billion, while some of Yahoo's holdings, such as its stake in Alibaba, will remain as a renamed, publicly traded company.



make Verizon into an ad player that rivals Facebook and Google. Jefferies analyst Mike McCormack said he's doubtful an older internet brand like Yahoo will bring in the kinds of users that Verizon has been trying to lure with go90.

Yahoo is among the stodgier internet brands, but comScore says the age breakdown of Yahoo users in the U.S. is not

substantially different than Google or Facebook users.

Verizon could drive more traffic by loading Yahoo apps on Android phones, although Apple forbids this on iPhones. In a conference call, Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer suggested that Verizon "and its distribution on mobile" could help get Yahoo's mobile apps "in front of more users."

Shutting down 'shark finning': US fishermen promise a fight

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—American fishermen are digging in for a fight over a proposal to shut down the vestiges of the U.S. harvest of shark fins, prized for soup and traditional medicine in Asia, and send a message to the rest of the world.

The traditional "finning" of sharks—in which they are pulled out of the water, have their fins sliced off and are discarded into the sea, often still alive but unable to swim—is already illegal in the U.S., but fishermen are still allowed to hunt sharks and have their fins removed during processing on land.

A bill backed by Sen. Cory Booker, a New Jersey Democrat, and others promises to ban the sale and possession of shark fins to ensure U.S. fishermen and seafood dealers no longer participate in the global fin trade. Supporters say the bill would close loopholes left open by measures passed in 2000 and 2010 to protect sharks.

"America can become a global leader by shutting down the domestic market for shark fins," Booker said.

Fins from as many as 70 million sharks end up in the worldwide fin trade every year, and completely remov-

ing the U.S. from the industry would tell the world that it needs to stop, Booker said.

Lora Snyder, campaign director for the conservation group Oceana, has compared shark fins to the trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn. She said the legislation to ban the trade is a step toward saving sharks.

But some commercial shark fishermen and fish processors say the effort is wrongheaded and will harm industry more than it protects sharks. The U.S. shark fishery was worth about \$2.5 million in 2014, Booker's office said. The worldwide trade is worth hundreds of millions.

In the U.S., sharks are processed for their meat, as well as the fins, most of which are sold to Hong Kong. The U.S. also imported an annual average of 36 tons of dried shark fins from 2000 to 2011, according to Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut and a supporter of Booker's legislation.

There are more than 400 permitted shark fishermen in the U.S., with the largest concentrations in Florida and Louisiana. Fishermen brought more than 600 metric tons of sharks to land in states from Maine to Texas in 2014.

S. Korea's growth improves on better consumption

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's economic growth has improved during the second quarter thanks to stronger private consumption and increased housing construction.

Bank of Korea said Tues-

day that Asia's fourth-largest economy expanded 3.2 percent during the April-June period, the fastest clip in seven quarters.

From the previous three months, it eked out a 0.7 percent growth. On a quarterly

basis, South Korea's economy grew less than 1 percent for a third straight quarter.

The bank said sales of clothes and durable goods drove up private consumption. Construction spending was robust thanks to an in-

crease in new houses.

Bank of Korea trimmed its benchmark interest rate last month to a record low of 1.25 percent, the first rate cut in one year. It downgraded its growth forecast on South Korea, citing increased global uncertainties.

EPA moves to regulate climate-warming airliner pollution

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jet engine exhaust from airliners endangers human health and adds to climate change, the government found Monday in taking the first step toward regulating those emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency said it will use its authority under the Clean Air Act to impose limits on aircraft emissions.

Jet engines spew significant amounts of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, into the upper atmosphere, where they trap heat from the sun. But proposed rules such as imposing fuel-efficiency standards have faced stiff opposition from

aircraft makers and commercial airlines.

Aircraft emissions were not addressed as part of the landmark global climate agreement agreed to in Paris in December.

"Addressing pollution from aircraft is an important element of U.S. efforts to address climate change," said Janet McCabe, EPA's acting assistant administrator for air and radiation.

McCabe said aircraft are the third largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. transportation sector, and that is expected to increase. Cars and trucks already are regulated.

The EPA's findings do not apply to small piston-engine planes or to military aircraft.

A U.N. panel in February recommended new emissions standards for international flights that require an average 4 percent reduction in fuel consumption during the cruising phase of flight. The new regulations from the International Civil Aviation Organization require that new aircraft designs meet the standards beginning in 2020, and that designs already in production comply by 2023.

Environmental groups have criticized those new international standards as too weak

to actually slow global warming. Planes burn the most fuel during takeoffs and landings. Cruising at high altitudes is the most fuel-efficient period.

Environmentalists say aviation accounts for about 5 percent of global greenhouse emissions, though the U.N. and EPA cite studies concluding it's actually less than 2 percent.

The EPA finding announced Monday is expected to result in fuel-efficiency standards for domestic carriers, which critics call long overdue. The EPA acted after a coalition of environmental organizations filed notice of their intent to sue the agency over its inaction.

Nation

Sanders urges fans to rally behind Clinton as DNC heats up

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Sen. Bernie Sanders urged supporters to rally behind Hillary Clinton at the Democratic convention, but ardent followers who marched for hours in punishing heat Monday and planned to do so again seemed intent on keeping his upstart campaign alive.

“Based on her ideas and her leadership, Hillary Clinton must become the next president of the United States,” Sanders said. “The choice is not even close.”

While Sanders encouraged his supporters to fall in line with Clinton, dozens were cited after they climbed barricades outside the convention, and many expressed disgust with party leaders after leaked emails suggested they had favored Clinton over the Vermont senator during the primary race.

Another series of protests and rallies was planned for Tuesday, the anger reflecting the widening rift inside the Democratic Party and the convention hall itself between Sanders’ supporters and Clinton’s. Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned as Democratic Party chairwoman Sunday over leaked emails sug-

gesting that the supposedly neutral Democratic National Committee played favorites during the primaries by siding with Clinton and bad-mouthing Sanders.

As Sanders’ supporters marched 4 miles from City Hall to the convention site Monday afternoon, they chanted “Hey, hey, ho, ho, the DNC has got to go!” and carried signs reading, “Never Hillary,” “Just Go to Jail Hillary” and “You Lost Me at Hillary.”

Police moved metal fences into place as tensions mounted outside the Wells Fargo Center, and closed the nearest subway station to arriving trains. Fifty-five people were issued citations as they tried to breach police barricades at the edge of the security zone surrounding the convention, police said.

Destine Madu, a protester from Maplewood, New Jersey, said it doesn’t matter if Sanders is calling on his backers to support Hillary Clinton.

“He’s like a Moses,” she said. “He led us to the promised land.”

Deborah Armstrong, of Spokane, Washington, said she and her husband went bankrupt because of his health



Former Democratic Presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks during the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Monday, July 25, 2016.

problems, which required a heart transplant.

“I’m Bernie or bust,” she said. “I’m not going to have Trump held up to our head like a gun.”

The demonstrators espoused a variety of causes, including economic justice, socialism and marijuana legalization. With Sanders out of the race, some of them were backing Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

The four-day convention is far removed from City Hall and the skyscrapers of Center City.

In contrast, the Republican convention last week in Cleveland was held in a bustling part of the city. A heavy police presence and fewer than expected protesters helped authorities maintain order. Only about two dozen arrests were made.

Die-hard Sanders backers divided on backing Clinton

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bernie Sanders tried to calm tensions among his delegates Monday at the Democratic National Convention but some weren’t in a listening mood, seething over a lengthy primary campaign and a damaging email disclosure.

Sanders’ delegates chanted the Vermont senator’s name during the start of the convention and booed lustily at any mention of rival Hillary Clinton. Behind the scenes, Sanders and his campaign tried to persuade his delegates not to disrupt the proceedings.

“Our credibility as a movement will be damaged by booing, turning of backs, walking out or other similar

displays,” Sanders said in an email to the delegates, calling it a “personal courtesy” to him. He was speaking later Monday and as the evening dragged on, the signs of dissent were less visible.

Yet many die-hard backers of Sanders they weren’t ready to coalesce around Clinton’s presidential bid despite his pleas.

Their frustration was on display a day after Democratic party chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz announced she would step down at the end of the convention. Sanders’ loyalists heckled her at a Florida delegation breakfast and many expressed dismay that Clinton had given the Florida congresswoman the posi-

tion of honorary chair of the campaign’s “50-state program.” She did not appear at the convention podium and later watched the proceedings from a private suite.

“I’m really annoyed,” said Michigan delegate Bruce Fealk. “I want to support Bernie, but I also want to voice my displeasure with the Democratic Party.”

Fealk said he viewed the emergence of hacked DNC emails, which suggested favoritism of Clinton, as a revelation and evidence of the party’s disrespect for progressives. Others said they simply couldn’t support Clinton.

“No, never, not in a million years, no. I wouldn’t vote for her for dog catcher,” said Melissa Arab, of Shelby

Township, Michigan.

From the podium, however, some of Sanders’ allies noted their progress in influencing the party’s platform and moving to reduce the influence of superdelegates, party leaders and elected officials who help decide the nomination.

“I stand with my Democratic family in making sure we win this fall,” said Maine lawmaker Diane Russell, a Sanders supporter. “We are all in this together and we will all have a voice in the Clinton administration.”

Earlier, at a raucous meeting with his delegates, Sanders implored them to get behind Clinton and her running mate, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, and defeat Republican nominee Donald Trump.

ACROSS THE NATION

US approves release of last Russian held at Guantanamo

MIAMI (AP)—A former ballet dancer and member of the Russian military who has been imprisoned as an enemy combatant at Guantanamo for nearly 14 years was given notice Monday that a review board has approved his release from the U.S. base in Cuba. Ravil Mingazov was deemed eligible for release by the Periodic Review Board, an interagency task force set up by the Obama administration to evaluate whether prisoners not facing charges can be released without endangering U.S. security. He is the last Russian citizen still held at Guantanamo. A statement announcing the decision was posted on the board’s website, and Mingazov’s lawyers said they notified him by video-teleconference from their office in Washington to the base in Cuba. The Russian planned a celebratory dinner with other prisoners at Guantanamo, said attorney Gary Thompson of the global firm Reed, Smith LLP. “It was emotional. We are still just in a state of disbelief,” Thompson said. “It’s been 14 years that Ravil has

been imprisoned without charges. It’s an amazing day.”

Carbon monoxide forces hotel evacuation; 2 hospitalized

WARREN, Mich. (AP)—Two people have been hospitalized and a Detroit-area hotel was evacuated after high carbon monoxide levels were recorded. Warren Mayor James Fouts says a couple visiting the area from Colorado and their pet dog were found unresponsive Monday at the Hawthorn Suites north of Detroit. Their names weren’t released and their conditions weren’t immediately known. Consumers Energy spokesman Roger Morgenstern tells The Detroit News that initial carbon monoxide readings were about 400 parts per million, which he said could be fatal depending on the length of exposure. The level had dropped to about nine parts per million, generally the threshold for evacuation, by the time a crew from the utility arrived at the hotel. The hotel’s general manager tells TV station WXYZ-TV a housekeeper found the guests. Authorities are investigating.

Most evacuations canceled for Southern California wildfire

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)—The majority of some 20,000 people forced from their homes by a wildfire that exploded during the weekend were told they could return home Monday night, though an army of firefighters continued battling flames in the rugged hills and canyons northwest of Los Angeles.

Residents of two neighborhoods still under threat had to remain out of their homes, the U.S. Forest Service said, after a day when the fire grew only slightly to about 55 square miles (142.26 sq. kilometers). So far 18 residences were confirmed destroyed in the blaze that started Friday afternoon and quickly tore through

drought-ravaged brush that hadn’t burned in decades.

Laurent Lacore, a native of France who lives in Santa Clarita, was among those who evacuated on Saturday, the last of his family of four to leave as the fire bore down on his house.

“The flames were right behind our backyard,” he said.

He returned Monday night delighted to find the house and everything around it had been saved, and could see a line of red fire retardant where a helicopter had stopped the fire’s approach.

“Everything is fine,” he said. “Even all of the trees are there.”

Some 300 miles to the northwest a blaze in the scenic

Big Sur region of the Central Coast had destroyed 20 homes and threatened 1,650 others as it burned 25 square miles (64.75 sq. kilometers), though firefighters made gains Monday and had it 10 percent contained.

The two blazes sent smoke as far away as Nevada, where officials issued air pollution warnings.

In Santa Clarita, the call for widespread evacuations brought frustration among fire officials as some residents refused the orders.

That meant firefighters having to help the holdouts to safety instead of putting out destructive flames, County Fire Chief Daryl Osby said.

Some firefighters “felt that they lost additional structures because they had to stop what they were doing to help citizens evacuate,” Osby said.

U.S. Forest Service spokesman Justin Correll urged residents to leave quickly when evacuation orders are issued because their “property becomes secondary.”

“We don’t want firemen to become traffic directors,” he said.

In Santa Clarita, 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles, the fire broke out Friday, spreading through rugged mountains before making its way into canyons with sprawling neighborhoods.

Asia

At least 19 killed, about 20 injured in knifing near Tokyo

SAGAMIHARA, Japan (AP)—At least 19 people were killed and about 20 wounded in a knife attack Tuesday at a facility for the handicapped in a city just outside Tokyo in the worst mass killing in generations in Japan.

Police said they responded to a call at about 2:30 a.m. from an employee saying something horrible was happening at the facility in the city of Sagami-hara, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Tokyo.

A man turned himself in at a police station about two hours later, police in Sagami-hara said. He left the knife in his car when he entered the station. He has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and trespassing.

Officials in Kanagawa prefecture, which borders Tokyo, identified the suspect as Satoshi Uematsu, and said he had worked at the facility until February. Japanese media reports said he was 26 years old.

He entered the building about 2:10 a.m. by breaking a glass window on the first floor

of a residential building at the facility, Shinya Sakuma, head of prefectural health and welfare division, said at a news conference.

Kanagawa Gov. Yuji Kuroiwa expressed his condolences to the victims.

The Sagami-hara City fire department says that 19 people were confirmed dead in the attack. The fire department said doctors at the scene confirmed the deaths.

The death toll could make this the worst mass killing in Japan in the post-World War II era.

A woman who lives across from the facility told Japanese broadcaster NHK that she saw police cars enter the facility around 3:30 a.m.

"I was told by a policeman to stay inside my house, as it could be dangerous," she said. "Then ambulances began arriving, and blood-covered people were taken away."

Japanese broadcaster NTV reported that Uematsu was upset because he had been fired, but that could not be indepen-



Police officers stand guard at the main gate of Tsukui Yamayuri-en, a facility for the disabled where a number of people were killed and dozens injured in a knife attack in Sagami-hara, outside Tokyo Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

dently confirmed.

The facility, called the Tsukui Yamayuri-en, is home to about 150 adult residents who have mental disabilities, Japan's Kyodo News service said.

Television footage showed

a number of ambulances parked outside, with medical and other rescue workers running in and out.

Mass killings are relatively

rare in Japan, which has extremely strict gun-control laws. In 2008, seven people were killed by a man who slammed a truck into a crowd

of people in central Tokyo's Akihabara electronics district and then stabbed passers-by.

In 2001, a man killed eight children and injured 13 others in a knife attack at an elementary school in the city of Osaka. The incident shocked Japan and led to increased security at schools.

More recently, 14 were injured in 2010 by an unemployed man who stabbed and beat up passengers on two public buses outside a Japanese train station in Ibaraki Prefecture, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north-east of Tokyo.

A man who lives near the site of the latest attack said he was shocked such an attack happened in the quiet, semi-rural area near Mount Takao, a mountain popular with hikers.

"I never imagined such a horrible thing happening," said Chikara Inabayashi, who was tending his watermelon patch. "I was astonished, that's the only thing I can say."

Flight 370: With search suspended, a cold-case file awaits

BANGKOK (AP)—For two years and more, it has been a lost ship, a metal container carrying 239 souls that simply disappeared one late Asian night never to be seen again. And now, the search for the remains of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 likely will become a thing of memory, too.

With Friday's announcement that the meticulous ocean search for the missing jetliner will be suspended—in effect, called off—one of this decade's most tantalizing unanswered questions is headed toward becoming, in effect, a cold case.

"I am not surprised it's coming to an end without any answers," Tony Wong, a businessman in Kuala Lumpur, said Monday.

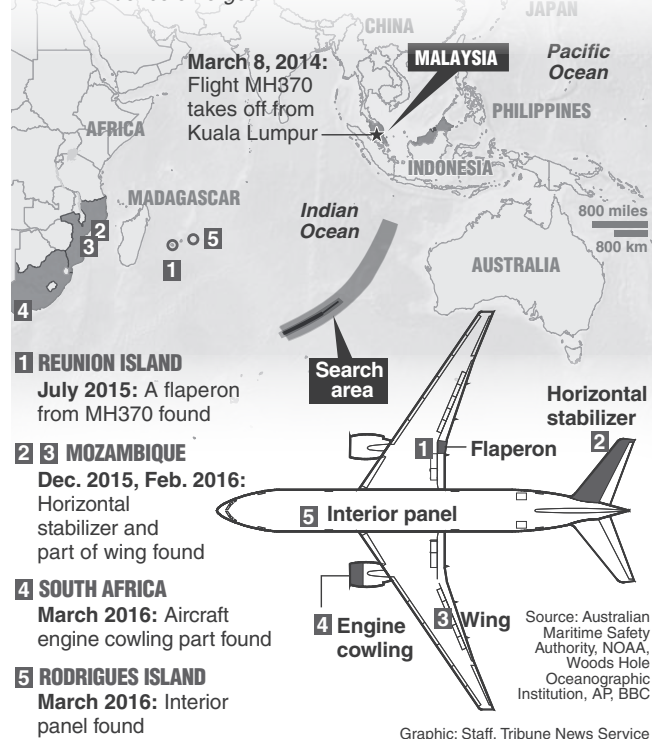
"People are slowly forgetting the incident," he said. "No one will ever know the truth."

The truth may be out there. The problem is, you have to know where to look. And that's been precisely the problem all along.

The Boeing 777-200ER vanished on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. Investigators believed it turned back west and then south before dropping into the Indian Ocean west of Australia, where the search has been concentrated. The Malaysian government has concluded that it was deliberately steered off course. Conspiracy theories, unsurprisingly, still

Search for Flight 370 suspended

The more than two-year-long hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will be suspended once the current search area in the Indian Ocean has been completed. The search could be revived, but only if new evidence emerges.



abound in the vacuum of facts: Was it blown up? Steered into the sea? Diverted to a remote airstrip somewhere? Abducted by aliens?

For a long stretch, it seemed the world's biggest loose end—a global obsession for weeks, a nagging unsolved riddle for years. And behind the epic tale were the lost souls and the families they left behind, which expected maximum effort and, to hear many relatives tell it over the long months, a

successful resolution.

They were not happy at the news that the search was being suspended. To varying degrees, they have accused investigators and searchers and the governments overseeing them of disingenuousness, incompetence and nefarious political agendas.

In China, relatives have roundly denounced the decision. They still don't seem ready to think about the finality of it all.

PH leader declares ceasefire with communist rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared a unilateral cease-fire with communist guerrillas effective immediately Monday and asked the rebels to do the same to end decades of deadly fighting and foster the resumption of peace talks.

In his first state of the nation address before Congress, Duterte said he wanted a "permanent and lasting peace" before the end of his six-year term, which commenced on June 30. The ex-city mayor, who built a name for his tough, crime-busting style, also focused on his battle against illegal drugs, threatening drug dealers anew with death.

Addressing the New People's Army guerrillas, Duterte said: "Let us end these decades of ambushes and skirmishes. We are going nowhere and it is getting bloodier by the day."

"Let me make this appeal to you," he said. "If we cannot as yet love one another, then in God's name, let us not hate each other too much."

The communist guerrillas welcomed Duterte's move and said they would wait for a copy of his truce order before "reciprocating positively."

"We share his desire to achieve a just and lasting peace," chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni told The Associated Press by telephone from the Dutch city of Utrecht, where he and other rebel leaders have been on self-exile for years.

The guerrillas were waiting for Duterte's government to

free the first 22 of hundreds of what they regard as political detainees who would serve as rebel consultants in the resumption of peace talks in the Norwegian capital of Oslo from Aug. 20 to 27, Jalandoni said.

Among those to be freed were top rebel couple Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, who were captured by government forces in 2014, he said.

The Philippine military

also welcomed Duterte's announcement, but said it "will remain alert, vigilant and ready to defend itself and pursue attackers if confronted by armed elements of the New People's Army."

"The commander in chief has initiated a very bold move and we fully support him in his effort to bring sustainable and lasting peace," said military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bangladesh police say 9 militants killed in raid in Dhaka

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in Bangladesh's capital raided a five-story building Tuesday and killed nine suspected Islamic militants, the country's police chief said. Inspector General of Police A.K.M. Shahidul Hoque said the raid took place in Dhaka's Kalyanpur area and one suspect was arrested and was being treated for injuries in a hospital. Hoque said officials were investigating to see which group the men belonged to, but their clothing and other evidence showed it was likely that they belonged to local banned group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB. The group is blamed for a July 1 attack in Dhaka's Gulshan diplomatic area, where 20 people, including Italians and Japanese, were killed when armed gunmen attacked a restaurant.

Israeli tourist gang-raped after accepting car ride in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police were questioning two men Monday in the gang rape of a 25-year-old Israeli tourist who accepted a car ride while traveling in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The woman, who had been looking for a taxi, got into the car in the hill resort of Manali before dawn Sunday to travel to a nearby town, said Padam Chand, a police superintendent in Manali. There were six men in the car and two of them raped the tourist after stopping at a desolate spot, he said. Two of the men were in police custody and a search was on for the other four. Chand said the men would be arrested if police found evidence that they were the ones involved in the gang rape. "Arresting the four men who are absconding is our topmost priority. We have alerted police in all nearby districts," Chand told reporters late Monday.

World

Historic solar flight marks first round-the-world journey

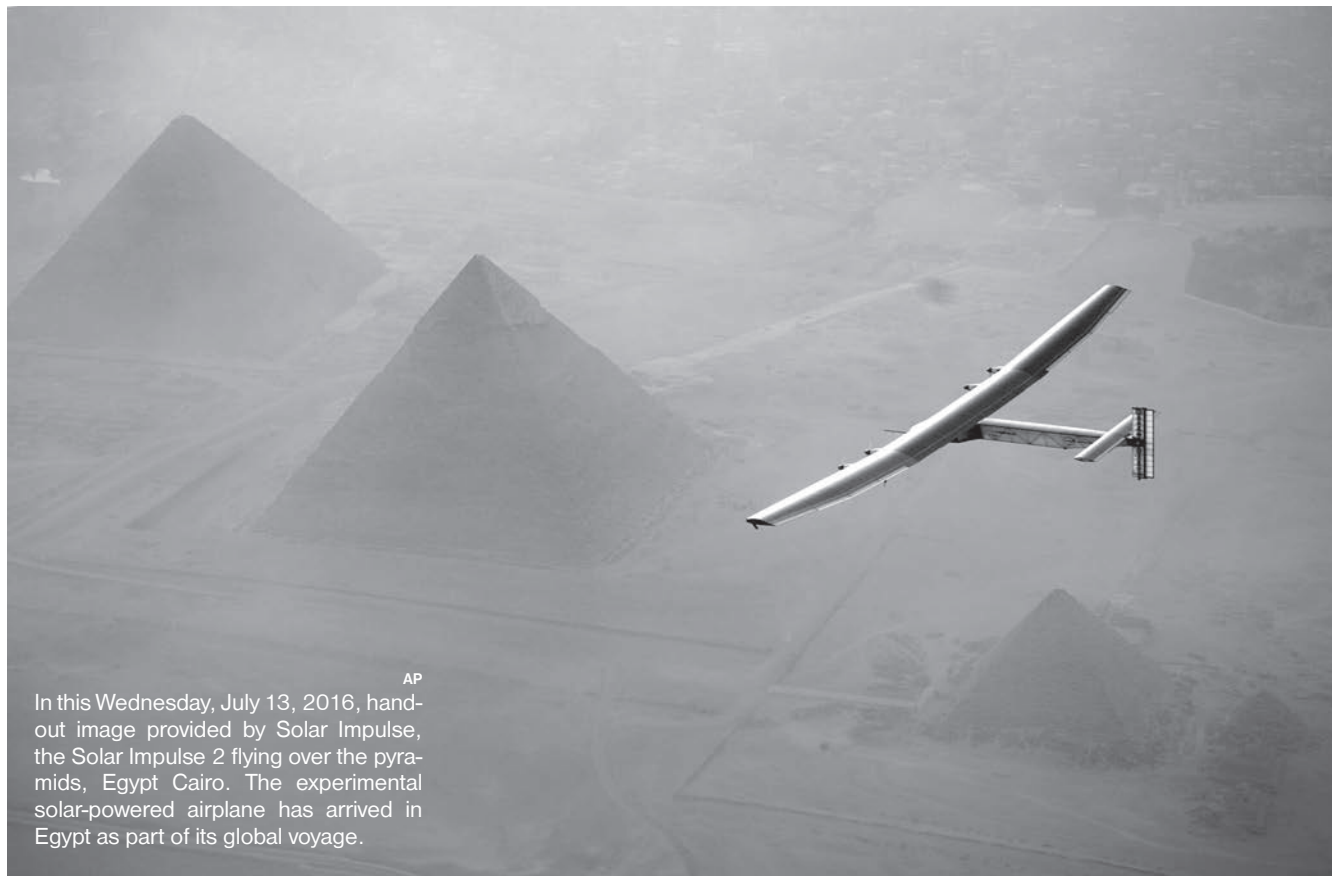
ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The world's first round-the-world flight to be powered solely by the sun's energy made history Tuesday as it landed in Abu Dhabi, where it first took off on an epic 25,000-mile (40,000-kilometer) journey that began more than a year ago.

Since its March 2015 take off, the Swiss-engineered Solar Impulse 2 has made 16 stops across the world without using a drop of fuel to demonstrate that using the plane's clean technologies on the ground can halve the world's energy consumption, save natural resources and improve quality of life.

After landing the plane, pilot Bertrand Piccard was greeted outside the cockpit by his Solar Impulse partner and fellow pilot Andre Borschberg. They hugged and pumped their fists in the air.

"The future is clean. The future is you. The future is now. Let's take it further," Piccard said, speaking through a microphone to applause and cheers from a crowd that included Prince Albert of Monaco.

The aircraft is uniquely powered by 17,248 solar cells that transfer energy to four electrical motors that power the plane's propellers. It runs on four lithium polymer batteries at night. The plane's wingspan stretches 236 feet (72 meters) to catch



AP
In this Wednesday, July 13, 2016, hand-out image provided by Solar Impulse, the Solar Impulse 2 flying over the pyramids, Egypt Cairo. The experimental solar-powered airplane has arrived in Egypt as part of its global voyage.

the sun's energy.

At around 5,070 pounds (2,300 kilograms), the plane weighs about as much as a minivan or mid-sized truck. An empty Boeing 747, in comparison, weighs 400,000 pounds (180,000 kilograms). To help steady it during take-offs and landings, the plane was guided by runners and bicyclists.

Despite its historic mission, the Solar Impluse 2's journey was far from quick

or problem-free.

The pilots faced a nine-month delay a year ago after the plane's batteries were

damaged during a flight from Japan to Hawaii. It was also delayed for more than a week in Cairo ahead of its final

flight to Abu Dhabi when Piccard fell ill, and due to poor weather conditions.

Over its entire mission, So-

lar Impluse 2 completed more than 500 flight hours, cruising at an average speed of between 28 mph (45 kmh) and 56 mph (90 kmh). It made stops in Oman, India, Myanmar, China, Japan, the U.S., Spain, Italy, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. Its North American stops included California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

The carbon-fiber plane is a single-seater aircraft, meaning its two Swiss pilots—Piccard and Borschberg—had to take turns flying solo for long days and nights. To calm their minds and manage fatigue during the long solo flights, Borschberg practiced yoga and Piccard self-hypnosis.

In a statement this week, Borschberg said it is no longer a question of whether it's possible to fly without fuel or polluting emissions.

"By flying around the world thanks to renewable energy and clean technologies, we have demonstrated that we can now make our world more energy efficient," he said.

German refugee policy under fire after a week of bloodshed

BERLIN (AP)—Four attacks in a week—three of them carried out by asylum seekers—have left Germany on edge and Chancellor Angela Merkel's policies of welcoming refugees under renewed criticism.

Anxiety over Germany's ability to cope with last year's flood of more than 1 million registered asylum seekers first surged following a series of sexual assaults and robberies in Cologne during New Year celebrations.

But in the last seven days, the violence has become even more deadly.

The unprecedented bloodshed began July 18, when a

17-year-old from Afghanistan wielding an ax attacked people on a train near Wuerzburg, wounding five people before he was shot to death by police. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

On Sunday, a 21-year-old Syrian used a machete to kill a 45-year-old Polish woman in the southern city of Reutlingen. Authorities said assailant and victim knew each other from working in the same restaurant, and the incident was not related to terrorism.

Also Sunday, a 27-year-old Syrian who was denied asylum detonated a backpack of explosives and shrapnel at the entrance to an outdoor

music festival in Ansbach, killing himself and wounding 15 people. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility, and German security officials said a video on the attacker's phone shows him pledging allegiance to the extremists.

The deadliest attack came Friday night in Munich. The German-born, 18-year-old son of Iranian asylum seekers went on a shooting spree and killed nine people. The youth had obsessively researched mass shootings, and authorities said the attack does not appear to be linked to Islamic extremists.

The violence followed an attack in the French Riviera by a Tunisian truck driver

who plowed his vehicle into a Bastille Day crowd, killing 84 people in Nice.

Experts say the attacks are likely to inflame anti-foreigner sentiment in Germany, creating a challenge for Merkel's government.

Merkel could now face increased calls for tighter border security and greater vetting of arrivals, even though the flow of migrants and asylum seekers has slowed drastically, said Florian Otto, an analyst with the risk consultants Verisk Maplecroft. The influx diminished after the European Union and Turkey agreed on a deal aimed at stopping people from reaching the continent by sea.

Turkey issues warrants for 42 journalists amid criticism

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey on Monday issued warrants for the detention of 42 journalists suspected of links to the alleged organizers of a failed military uprising, intensifying concerns that a sweeping crackdown on alleged coup plotters could target media for any news coverage critical of the government.

While the Turkish government said it is investigating the journalists for possible criminal conduct rather than their reporting, critics warned that a state of emergency imposed after the July 15 coup attempt poses a threat to freedom of expression.

"We fear there will be a

witch hunt which would include journalists known as 'critical' against the government. Because they are putting all journalists into one bag," said Ahmet Abakay, president of the Progressive Journalists' Association, a media group based in the Turkish capital Ankara. He said the situation was "very dangerous for every journalist" and that government warnings to reporters to be careful would lead to self-censorship.

"By rounding up journalists, the government is failing to make a distinction between criminal acts and legitimate criticism," said Gauri van Gulik, Amnesty International's

deputy director for Europe.

More than 13,000 people in the military, judiciary and other institutions have been detained since the uprising, which killed about 290 people. In the latest purge, Turkish Airlines, the national carrier, said it has terminated the contracts of 221 employees. It said the contracts were ended for problems including conduct contrary to the national interest, such as "sponsoring" the movement of Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric accused by Turkey of fomenting the insurrection.

Those fired included seven people in managerial positions and 15 pilots, according

to the private Turkish news agency Dogan.

Also Monday, security forces caught seven fugitive soldiers accused of raiding a hotel in the resort town of Marmaris shortly after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan left it on the night of July 15, bringing the number of those detained for the attack to 25, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. Security forces were searching for 10 others believed to be on the run near Marmaris.

Erdogan has said that he would have been killed or captured if he had he stayed at the hotel for an additional 10 or 15 minutes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuela receives major loan to boost falling reserves

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela is getting some financial relief as it burns through foreign reserves to pay for imports of badly needed food and medicine. On Monday, the Latin American Reserve Fund said it approved a three-year loan of \$482 million for Venezuela's central bank. The loan represents about 5 percent of the central bank's reserves, which have plunged to a 13-year low as a collapse in oil prices forces the government to scramble for hard currency amid widespread shortages of basic goods. Venezuela's opposition has questioned the legality of the loan since it didn't have the blessing of congress. But the Colombia-based multilateral lender, which was created by regional governments in the 1970s to assist members in time of financial stress, said Venezuela's Supreme Court signed off on the request.

Nigerian militants claim attack on pipeline; police deny it

WARRI, Nigeria (AP)—Oil militants say they have blown up a gas pipeline in Nigeria's southeastern Akwa Ibom state, but police blamed the explosion on a technical failure. The state-owned pipeline carries gas used to generate electricity for industries including Nigeria's only aluminum smelting plant. There was no way to independently verify the cause of Sunday night's blast. The Niger Delta Avengers claimed the attack on their website overnight, before the police statement Monday. A resurgence in attacks in Nigeria's oil-producing south this year has slashed production from 2.2 million to 1.2 million barrels a day. The militants want a bigger share of oil wealth for residents suffering from massive oil pollution. Oil accounts for 70 percent of government revenue. The attacks are contributing to an economic crisis that threatens recession.

Focus

S **RINAGAR, India** (AP)—When news spread that Indian troops on July 8 had killed 22-year-old Burhan Wani, a charismatic commander of Indian-controlled Kashmir's biggest rebel group, the public response was spontaneous and massive. Tens of thousands of angry youths poured out of their homes in towns and villages across the Himalayan region, hurling rocks and bricks and clashing with Indian troops.

A curfew and a communications blackout has failed to stop the protests. The violence has left 48 civilians dead as government forces fired live ammunition and pellets to try to quell the unrest. About 2,000 civilians and 1,500 police and soldiers have been injured in the clashes.

But Kashmir's fury at Indian rule is not new. The stunning mountain region has known little other than conflict since 1947, when British rule of the subcontinent ended with the creation of India and Pakistan.

THE HISTORY

The Himalayan kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir was asked to become part of one of the two newly independent nations. But Maharaja Hari Singh, the unpopular Hindu ruler of the Muslim-majority region, wanted to stay independent.

A raid by tribesmen from northwestern Pakistan forced Singh to seek help from India, which offered military assistance on condition that the kingdom accede to India. The ruler accepted, but insisted that Kashmir remain a largely autonomous state within the Indian union, with India managing its foreign affairs, defense and telecommunications.

The Indian military entered the region soon after, and the tribal raid spiraled into the first of two wars between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. The war ended in 1948 with a U.N.-brokered cease-fire. Nonetheless, Kashmir became divided between the two young nations by a heavily militarized Line of Control, with the promise of a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the future.

In Indian-controlled Kashmir, many saw the transition as the mere transfer of power from their Hindu king to Hindu-majority India. Kashmiri discontent against India started taking root as successive Indian governments breached the pact of Kashmir's autonomy. Local governments were toppled one after another, and largely peaceful movements



Supporters of the Imamia Students Organization, a Shiite Muslim group, take part in a demonstration in Karachi, Pakistan, Sunday, July 24, 2016. Thousands of supporters of the religious party rallied in Pakistani capital to condemn the killing by India of Kashmiri resistance leader Burhan Wani and to express solidarity with Kashmiris who are resisting Indian rule.

AP EXPLAINS: For 69 years, Kashmir torn by deadly strife

against Indian control were curbed harshly.

Pakistan continued raising the Kashmir dispute in international forums, including in the U.N. India began calling the region its integral part, saying that Kashmir's lawmakers had ratified the accession to New Delhi.

As the deadlock persisted, India and Pakistan went to war again in 1965, with little changing on the ground. Several rounds of talks followed, but the impasse continued.

In the mid-1980s, dissident political groups in Indian Kashmir united and contested elections for the state assembly. The Muslim United Front quickly emerged as a formidable force against Kashmir's pro-India political elite. However, the front lost the 1987 election, widely believed to have been heavily rigged.

A strong public backlash followed. Some young MUF activists crossed over to Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, where the Pakistani military began arming and training Kashmiri nationalists.

By 1989, Kashmir was in the throes of a full-blown rebellion.

India poured more troops into the already heavily mili-

tarized region. In response, thousands of Kashmiris streamed back from the Pakistani-controlled portion with guns and grenades. More than 68,000 people have been killed since then.

Though the militancy waned, popular sentiment for "azadi," or freedom, has remained ingrained in the Kashmiri psyche. In the last decade, the region has made a transition from armed rebellion to unarmed uprisings as tens of thousands of civilians frequently take to the streets to protest Indian rule, often leading to clashes between rock-throwing residents and Indian troops. The protests are usually quelled by force, often resulting in deaths.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2008, a government decision—later revoked—to transfer land to a Hindu shrine in Kashmir set off a summer of protests. The following year, the alleged rape and murder of two young women by government forces set off fresh violence.

In 2010, the trigger for protests was a police investigation into allegations that soldiers shot dead three civilians and

then staged a fake gunbattle to make it appear that the dead were militants, in order to claim rewards for the killings.

In all three years, hundreds of thousands of young men and women took to the streets, hurling rocks and abuse at Indian forces. At least 200 people were killed and hundreds wounded as troops fired into the crowds, inciting further protests. The crackdown appears to be pushing many educated young Kashmiris, who grew up politically radicalized amid decades of brutal conflict, toward armed rebel groups. Young Kashmiri boys began snatching weapons from Indian forces and training themselves deep inside Kashmir's forests.

The number of militants has, however, remained minuscule, not crossing 200 in the last several years.

ANTI-INDIA GROUPS

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference is a conglomerate of social, religious and political groups formed in 1993. It advocates the U.N.-sponsored

right to self-determination for Kashmir or tripartite talks among India, Pakistan and Kashmiri leadership to resolve the dispute.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front was one of the first armed rebel groups. It favors an independent, united Kashmir. Currently led by Mohammed Yasin Malik, the group gave up armed rebellion in 1994, soon after Indian authorities released Malik from jail after four years.

Hizbul Mujahideen is Kashmir's largest and only surviving indigenous armed rebel group. Formed in 1990, the group demands Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. Its supreme commander, Syed Salahuddin, is based in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. The group was led in Indian Kashmir by Burhan Wani until his death on July 8.

The Lashkar-e-Taiba is a Pakistan-based group fighting for Indian Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. The United States lists it as a terrorist group. Its leader, Hafiz Saeed,

is on a U.S. terrorist list, with a \$10 million bounty on his head. He's also one of India's most wanted men. New Delhi blames the group for several deadly attacks in Kashmir and Indian cities, including the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people.

PRO-INDIA GROUPS

The Jammu Kashmir National Conference is a pro-India political group that has ruled Kashmir for the most part since 1947. Its most recent leaders, Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, the current opposition leader in the state assembly, are seen as the strongest proponents of India in Kashmir.

The Jammu Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party emerged in the early 2000s as the strongest opponent to the National Conference, strategically using pro-separatist views for electoral gains. It soon came to power in 2002. It currently rules Indian Kashmir in coalition with India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Aging in place calls for strategic planning

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Downsizing is not an easy decision — but a smart one if you know deep in your heart it's the right step toward aging in place.

Timing is another part of the decision-making process.

Years ago, my mother wanted to move from the house that she and dad built and lived in for more than 40 years. While it was a simple brick rancher, it still did not meet many needs as they aged. Once mom was gone and dad was still in the house, he often wished they had relocated to something with no steps, friendlier bathrooms and smaller yard. Eventually, health forced him into assisted living.

During the two years dad spent in assisted living, I learned it was not how I wanted to end life, and I knew the right house in the right area could help prevent that.

Even before dad's health decline, husband Ken and I knew we wanted to sell our one-acre waterfront, two-story home in Yorktown, Va., for something that was easier to close up and leave for more traveling.

The master bedroom was downstairs but there was still too much upstairs space that we did not use regularly. Instead, we wanted all bedrooms and baths on one floor. We wanted to comfortably "age in place," as they put it, or stay in our own home and bring in help later in life, if needed.

The Bermuda lawn needed mowing every four days, something Ken did with a self-propelled, mulching push mower. One summer we traveled during mowing season, a company hired to tend to the lawn used rider mowers that scalped the grass and uprooted pavers. After that fiasco, we were reluctant to turn that chore over to anyone else.

June to November, we worried about being away during hurricane season. Overall, we were too tied to the yard and its needs. Hundreds of plants in beds we personally installed needed 300 bags of mulch dumped and spread annually, a ritual we began to dread. Over time, I became allergic to many plants in the garden, especially perennials with sticky stems and saps, so gardening was not the fun times it used to be.

Most importantly, I was 100 miles roundtrip away from my grandkids, ages 2 and 4, in



TNS

Daily Press gardening writer Kathy Van Mullekom and husband Ken recently sold their Yorktown, Va., house and downsized to a smaller yard and simpler house in Virginia Beach, Va., near their grandkids.

Virginia Beach, Va., and riding the interstate was getting old.

Fortunately, Ken was ready to give up the big-yard responsibility. He, too, was ready for one-floor living.

MARKETING THE HOUSE

Early on, we knew it would take time to sell our house, and we were Ok with that. In no hurry, we interviewed three agents. Two agents told us our house would sell for \$100-\$150k less than what we expected. The third agent estimated its price in our ballpark and was willing to work with us. We firmly told him we were patient sellers and would wait for the right buyer.

The 10-year-old house was in selling condition, and we had it on and off the market for about a year, removing it when we were gone on extended travel.

Late last year, we took the house off the market, planning to list it again in spring. Unexpectedly, a couple who had looked at the house earlier made an offer we could not refuse. It was a stressful time to pack up and move because my father was critically ill and I was at his place many hours of the week.

About 10 days later, dad passed away, and we had his funeral over the Christmas holidays.

Ken and I went into full-move mode.

SELLING EXTRA STUFF

Before the movers came for an estimate, we decided what we wanted to keep and what needed to go. We are probably like most couples — one wants to hang on to most everything while the other one wants to let too much go. I get attached to few material things, so letting go is easier for me.

One day, I suddenly decided

to get on my personal Facebook page and post items for sale. I posted a photo of each item with a description and realistic price, including my crazy obsession with stashes of Arm & Hammer laundry detergent and Bounty paper towels I bought on sale. Before I knew it, too many "I want and save-for-me" messages were arriving, making it a little difficult to keep track of who wanted what. I private messaged our address and a time to pick up their items, stressing only "cash" was acceptable. By weekend's end, we sold more than I ever imagined. After that, we made a second round of "that's got to go" decisions, and again used Facebook to sell those items at a following weekend garage sale. By noon that garage sale day, what was left was boxed for donation to my favorite charity, ReStore, a retail store of used items operated by Habitat for Humanity.

We also contracted Velvet Shoestring, an upscale consignment store in Williamsburg, Va., to transport two bedroom sets, two living room sets, as well as odds and ends of small rugs, knickknacks and art to their showroom. Cost for that was \$200, well worth the several thousand we made on the sale of items.

We also let close friends know of some furniture we had for sale, and several took advantage of that opportunity.

BUYING RIGHT

After traveling to Virginia Beach weekly for three years to help with the grandkids, I knew where Ken and I did not want to live — anywhere near the oceanfront or other tourist-heavy area.

Those trips also taught me



TNS

Verbena bonariensis blooms in Kathy Van Mullekom's former yard in Yorktown, Va.

there are two Virginia Beach personalities — the 24/7 oceanfront with its crowds and noise and the peaceful Princess Anne and Pungo areas with winding back roads, farms with produce stands and horse stables with pasturelands, almost 25,000 acres I recently learned. Sandbridge, too, is a nice place to live if you locate in the northern end with the

year-round residents.

With those three areas in mind, we looked at some 30 houses.

Luckily, we found West Neck Villages, a 55-plus community with an Arnold Palmer-designed golf course. Its Village Hall features pool, exercise room, dances, bingo and poker nights and educational and fun clubs. The 1,500-house commu-

nity links to two family-type neighborhoods and an upscale section called Indian River Plantation. Combined, the three neighborhoods offer miles and miles of biking and walking trails with green spaces and lakes.

For me, a roundtrip drive to the grandkids house is 16 miles versus 100 miles. Plus, my son works at the nearby city municipal center, meaning I can easily meet him for lunch. Shopping at any major store is within five miles.

Finally, we settled on a 10-year-old house with three bedrooms, office and two baths, as well as a wide-open kitchen, living, dining and sunroom area downstairs. A room over the garage offers great out-of-the-way storage capacity and a place for the pool table. The manageable yard — about one-fourth the size of what we left — backs up to woods in a land management trust.

We signed and started renovation in late February! Next week's tale is all about that snowballing adventure.

In Loving Memory

†**Consolacion Cabrera Galang**

Lovingly Know as "Chong Kapuluk"

Novemeber 19, 1949 - July 21, 2016

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Roberto N. Galang

Parents: †Francisco DeLeon Guerrero Bermudes
†Ramona Taisacan Cabrera Lizama

Brothers and Sisters: †Joaquin Cabrera, Carmen Lizama,
Barbara C. Ada, Donna C. Appleby

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children:
Yvonne and Paul VanAllen and children
Lori C. Duenas
Anthony C. Duenas and children
Andrew C. Duenas and children
Alexander C. Duenas

Sisters, Brothers and In-Laws:
Isidro and Bernie Cabrera
Dolores C. Boutin and children
Fermina Cabrera/ Francisco Cruz
Jose Cabrera
Juan and Fe Cabrera and children
William Ada/Louise C. Concepcion and children

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul are being celebrated each evening at 6:00 pm at San Antonio Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2016. Holy Rosary will be recited at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 6:30 am. Her remains will be escorted to San Antonio Church at 7:30 am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:00 am followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Children and Family



Life & Style

Sarah Silverman: Bernie-or-bust Dems 'being ridiculous'

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comic Sarah Silverman joined Sen. Al Franken Monday night to urge Democratic National Convention delegates to unite—then stirred up Bernie Sanders die-hards with some choice words: “To the Bernie or bust people, you’re being ridiculous.”

As a Sanders supporter herself, Silverman said she would now vote for Hillary Clinton “with gusto” as she continues to be “inspired and moved to action by the ideals set forth by Bernie, who will never stop fighting for us.”

She spoke on the convention’s opening day just before Paul Simon stood at a microphone and crooned the Simon and Garfunkel classic “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

Singer Demi Lovato got personal at the podium, touching on her struggle with men-



tal illness, including eating and bipolar disorders. She urged an end to the stigma of those afflicted and called on politicians to support better access to health care for all.

“Like millions of Ameri-

cans, I am living with mental illness,” the 23-year-old Lovato said. “But I am lucky. I had the resources and support to get treatment at a top facility. Unfortunately, too many Americans from all walks of

life don’t get help, whether they fear the stigma or cannot afford treatment.” Lovato closed with a performance of her hit “Confident.”

Actress Eva Longoria of “Desperate Housewives” trashed Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump

AP
Comedian Sarah Silverman speaks during the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Monday, July 25, 2016.

for his statements on Mexican immigrants.

Longoria, a Latina from a small town in south Texas, said she is ninth-generation American from a place once owned by Mexico.

“My family never crossed a border. The border crossed us,” she said, adding: “When Donald Trump calls us criminals and rapists, he is insulting American families. My father is not a criminal or rapist. In fact, he’s a United States veteran.”

Fans and fashionistas, meanwhile, waited patiently for the dress reveal of first lady Michelle Obama, who spoke late Monday night. She wore a bright blue, A-line, cap-sleeve custom dress from American designer Christian Siriano. It

was made of silk crepe and included high-belt detailing.

Earlier Monday, Triumph the insulting, cigar-chomping puppet dog joined sweltering street protesters while actress Rosario Dawson urged Bernie Sanders supporters to “listen” to their man.

Actor and activist Danny Glover of the “Lethal Weapon” film franchise addressed the convention’s black caucus, describing Trump as a fascist and urging caucus members to “listen to new voices that demand speaking truth to power.”

Glover and actresses Shailene Woodley and Susan Sarandon joined more than 1,000 people for a climate rally, vowing to keep up the fight on environmental issues even though Sanders, their preferred presidential candidate, would not be in charge. Woodley urged Sanders supporters to remain calm and Sarandon thanked him for “igniting this spark.”

Box Office Top 20: ‘Star Trek Beyond’ beams up \$59.3 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Star Trek Beyond” easily topped the domestic box office in its first weekend in theaters with \$59.3 million, but the real winner was “Lights Out,” which cost Warner Bros. \$5 million to make and landed in third place with \$21.7 million out of the gate, studios said Monday.

“Star Trek Beyond,” the third film in the rebooted series, cost an estimated \$185

million to produce. While its debut was healthy, it is over \$10 million shy of the second installment’s opening in 2013.

“Ice Age: Collision Course” bombed in its domestic debut with \$21.4 million, putting it in fourth place behind “Lights Out,” and the more direct competitor, “The Secret Life of Pets,” which hung in second place with \$29.6 million after three weeks in theaters.

Sony’s “Ghostbusters” reboot fell to fifth place with \$21 million in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$86.3 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1. “Star Trek Beyond,” Paramount, \$59,253,211, 3,928 locations, \$15,085 average, \$59,253,211, 1 week.	8. “Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates,” 20th Century Fox, \$4,385,285, 2,137 locations, \$2,052 average, \$40,343,032, 3 weeks.	14. “Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie,” Fox Searchlight, \$1,861,118, 313 locations, \$5,946 average, \$1,861,118, 1 week.
2. “The Secret Life Of Pets,” Universal, \$29,607,210, 4,048 locations, \$7,314 average, \$260,985,955, 3 weeks.	9. “Hillary’s America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party,” Quality Flix, \$3,964,646, 1,217 locations, \$3,258 average, \$4,056,170, 2 weeks.	15. “The BFG,” Disney, \$1,012,646, 686 locations, \$1,476 average, \$50,955,703, 4 weeks.
3. “Lights Out,” Warner Bros., \$21,688,103, 2,818 locations, \$7,696 average, \$21,688,103, 1 week.	10. “Kabali (Tamil & Telugu),” Cinegalaxy, \$3,899,441, 240 locations, \$16,248 average, \$3,899,441, 1 week.	16. “Independence Day: Resurgence,” 20th Century Fox, \$902,718, 730 locations, \$1,237 average, \$101,227,043, 5 weeks.
4. “Ice Age: Collision Course,” 20th Century Fox, \$21,373,064, 3,992 locations, \$5,354 average, \$21,373,064, 1 week.	11. “The Infiltrator,” Broad Green Pictures, \$3,328,382, 1,537 locations, \$2,166 average, \$12,274,291, 2 weeks.	17. “Cafe Society,” Lionsgate, \$849,937, 50 locations, \$16,999 average, \$1,352,316, 2 weeks.
5. “Ghostbusters,” Sony, \$21,009,831, 3,963 locations, \$5,301 average, \$86,266,570, 2 weeks.	12. “Central Intelligence,” Warner Bros., \$2,820,284, 1,602 locations, \$1,760 average, \$123,138,447, 6 weeks.	18. “The Shallows,” Sony, \$638,077, 513 locations, \$1,244 average, \$53,626,202, 5 weeks.
6. “Finding Dory,” Disney, \$7,234,806, 2,576 locations, \$2,809 average, \$460,213,925, 6 weeks.	13. “The Purge: Election Year,” Universal, \$2,379,900, 1,701 locations, \$1,399 average,	19. “Captain Fantastic,” Bleeker Street, \$597,845, 104 locations, \$5,749 average, \$1,145,109, 3 weeks.
7. “The Legend of Tarzan,” Warner Bros., \$6,576,417, 2,844 locations, \$2,312 average, \$115,970,501, 4 weeks.		20. “Hunt For The Wilderpeople,” The Orchard, \$579,283, 200 locations, \$2,896 average, \$2,316,394, 5 weeks.

Michelle Obama wears American designer Christian Siriano

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michelle Obama, who ditched the boxy jackets and dowdy style of so many first ladies before her, addressed the Democratic National Convention in a custom, royal blue dress by designer Christian Siriano.

Never predictable or boring when it comes to clothes, her choice was in line with the modern and cool approach she has taken for the last eight years.

“Stuffy is not her signature, and in that sense her fashion choices reflect that sensibility and the mood of the times,” said Avril Graham, executive fashion and beauty editor for Harper’s Bazaar magazine.

Mrs. Obama wore her hair loose, parted to one side, with the cap-sleeve, A-line dress. Her jewelry was minimal, large silver earrings a prominent touch.

The look was low-key, Graham said, calling it “of the people, not stiff, simple, appropriately elegant, mannerly so as not to upstage.”

Fashionistas will miss this first lady, Graham said.

“I think it’s fair to say Michelle Obama has been the darling of the fashion set. She has championed young design



AP
First Lady Michelle Obama takes the stage during the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Monday, July 25, 2016.

talent and highlighted existing designer names with a very confident approach to her wardrobe choices,” she said.

The 30-year-old Siriano, who won the fourth season of “Project Runway” in 2008, has been growing his New York-based brand ever since. His custom convention creation included high-belt detailing, a tight bodice and a flared hem that lent the look movement.

Siriano dressed Mrs. Obama for the first time for a much sadder occasion: a black dress for the July 12 memorial service for five police officers killed by a sniper in Dallas.

Mrs. Obama wears color and prints with confidence and mixes up the clothing

shapes, or silhouettes, she chooses. She has worn an eclectic roster of designers, from the Europeans to the home-grown. Among her favorites: Jason Wu, Michael Kors, Narciso Rodriguez, Thakoon, Azzedine Alaia, Sophie Theallet, Naeem Khan and Junya Watanabe.

“Right from her early days as first lady she made the fashion elite take note,” Graham said.

But she’s no label snob, donning mom cardigans and other pieces from J. Crew and Gap. And she’s been clever in her attitude to beauty, Graham said, experimenting with different hair and makeup styles that are of the moment.

U2, Drake, Britney Spears to perform at iHeartRadio festival

Fox News ousts 2 more executives

NEW YORK (AP)—Four days after the ouster of Roger Ailes as Fox News chief, two more executives at the network have been axed.

But the firing of Michael Clemente and his top deputy, Peter Boyer, were not related to the sexual harassment allegations that forced Ailes out at the network that he started two decades ago, two Fox executives said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss personnel issues.

Clemente was executive vice president of news at Fox until April, when he was demoted and put in charge of a new division for specials and

long form programming. He worked at ABC News before coming to Fox.

Fox says it is reevaluating that division as it concentrates on the election over the next few months.

Ailes resigned Thursday after being sued by a former Fox anchor who alleged she was punished for resisting his sexual advances and complaining about an atmosphere of harassment at Fox. Other women have come forward, and published stories last weekend quoted a woman who said she was victimized by another Fox executive who had since left the network.



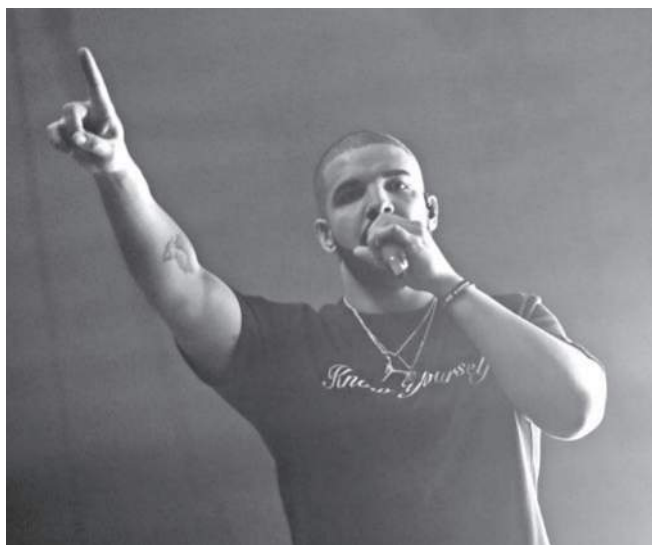
AP
In this April 27, 2013 file photo, Michael Clemente, Executive Vice President of Fox News, is seen during the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel, in Washington.

NEW YORK (AP)—U2, Drake, Britney Spears and Sting will perform at the 2016 iHeartRadio Music Festival in September.

Sia, Billy Idol, Ariana Grande, Usher, Sam Hunt and Florida Georgia Line will also perform during the two-day event at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on Sept. 23-24, iHeartMedia announced Monday.

Tickets go on sale Saturday. Pitbull, Zedd, twenty one pilots, OneRepublic, Cage the Elephant and Tears for Fears will also perform on the main stage.

The festival will also in-



AP
In a Saturday, March 19, 2016 file photo, Drake performs at the FADER FORT Presented by Converse during the South by Southwest Music Festival, in Austin, Texas.

clude its daytime performances, dubbed Daytime Village, at the Las Vegas Village. It will feature Sam Hunt, Panic! at the Disco, Alessia Cara, Troye Sivan, Hailie Steinfeld, Good Charlotte, Jeremih and Bryson Tiller.

The CW Network will air a two-day televised special Oct. 6-7.

Comedian Katt Williams arrested following L.A. hotel dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedian Katt Williams has been arrested on suspicion of battery following a dispute at a Los Angeles hotel.

Police tell the Los Angeles Times that Williams was arrested at the Sportsmen's Lodge late Sunday morning after a female employee said he injured her. Williams faces a misdemeanor battery count and has been released on \$20,000 bail. He's due in court on Aug. 18. His lawyer

didn't immediately return a request for comment.

The 44-year-old Williams has been arrested several times this year, including in April, when police said he threw a salt shaker at a suburban Atlanta restaurant manager.

AP
In this, Oct. 27, 2015, file photo, comedian Katt Williams appears in court for his arraignment on robbery charges in Los Angeles.



Original Jersey boy Frankie Valli heading back to Broadway



NEW YORK (AP)—The Broadway hit "Jersey Boys" is going to get some competition from an original Jersey boy.

Frankie Valli, whose falsetto fuels The Four Seasons' music, will return to Broadway for seven shows from Oct. 21-29 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

That will put him in compe-

AP
In this May 16, 2013 file photo, Frankie Valli performs at the "American Idol" finale at the Nokia Theatre at L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

tion with the behind-the-music musical about the doo-wop group that plays at the August Wilson Theatre.

Valli last played Broadway in 2012 in a lucrative set of shows. Some of his hits include "Sherry," "Walk Like A Man" and "December '63 (Oh What A Night)."

In 1990, Valli and The Four Seasons were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Together they scored 30 Billboard Top 40 hits, and Valli scored nine Billboard Top 40 hits as a solo artist.

At least 30 arrested at Guns N' Roses concert in New Jersey

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—At least 30 people have been arrested at a Guns N' Roses concert in New Jersey, including a woman accused of assaulting police.

The arrests occurred at Saturday night's show at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. Investigators say 30-year-old Kimberly Goodman was charged with aggravated as-

sault against two state troopers, who received minor injuries.

State troopers say there were also arrests for solicitation without a permit, disorderly persons, criminal trespassing, simple assault, drug offenses, resisting arrests, open lewdness and harassment.

It's unclear if Goodman has an attorney.

Single mom craves family's embrace of her daughters

DEAR ABBY: I am a single mother of two biracial daughters ages 2 and 4. They fill my life with joy and I am thankful to be their mother. My problem is, I haven't been able to face my family members since the birth of my second child.

My family has strong Christian roots, and I know they were disappointed when they heard about another unplanned pregnancy. This isn't the first time I have disappointed them. I smoked a lot of marijuana as a teen and young adult. I straightened my life out during my late 20s.

I miss my family very much, and I also feel my children are missing out by not knowing them. My parents passed away many years ago. My children's father was beaten to death days before my youngest daughter was born. My aunts and uncles are all I have left, and it breaks my heart to think we have lost them, too. How should I handle this without getting my heart broken?

MISSISSIPPI MOMMY

DEAR MOMMY: Did these aunts and uncles have children, or are they childless? If you have cousins, consider reaching out to them first, because their views may be less conservative than their parents'. If your family's Christian

roots are as strong as you say they are, they should be both welcoming and forgiving, and embrace your children in their loving family circle.

However, if they are not, then it would be better for your little girls if they were not exposed to them. I have advised in the past that sometimes people have to live their own lives and create their own families. If your relatives are rejecting, that is what you will have to do, not only for your daughters' sake, but also for your own.

DEAR ABBY: I have been getting together with a group of ladies for many years now. Husbands and boyfriends are welcome but rarely come. We enjoy meeting at each other's houses and at restaurants every few months.

We are having a problem with one member, "Gail," who is envious of "Rose," a still-beautiful former model. Gail has been making remarks that Rose "must have had work done" on her face to be able to retain her looks for so long. (I think it is a combination of good genes, sunscreen and incredible bone structure.)

What Rose has or hasn't done is none of Gail's business. Rose is aware of Gail's jealousy, and it puts a damper on our good times and our caring attitudes toward one another. We wish

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Gail would drop out. Her remarks need to stop. Have you any ideas on how we can deal with this problem?

CLUB MEMBER IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR CLUB MEMBER: I sure do. The person closest to Gail needs to tell her, privately, that the catty comments make everyone uncomfortable, and if she doesn't stop, she will no longer be welcome in the group.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unruly group
4 Competes
8 Locale
12 "Caught ya!"
13 "Excited" (Pointer Sisters hit)
14 One
15 Knight's address
16 Number patterns
18 Seoul setting
20 Lumber unit
21 Eager
24 Odor detectors
28 Non — (conclusion that doesn't follow)
32 Takeout order?
33 Ostrich's kin
34 Factions
36 Cambridge sch.
37 You love (Lat.)
39 Giant California trees

DOWN

41 Nasser's successor
43 Bygone jets
44 Meadow
46 Theater worker
50 Set apart, as a jury
55 Citrus drink
56 Border on
57 Capri, e.g.
58 Director
59 Bassoon's kin
60 "The — the limit!"
61 Farm pen

17 A billion years
19 Vichy water
22 "How sweet —!"
23 Ranch visitors

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	G	A	D	E	A	L	P	A	D
B	A	L	I	D	O	D	O	A	N
B	R	I	G	A	D	O	O	N	N
B	U	S	T	S	I	M	A	M	G
R	C	A	S	T	A	N	G	E	L
A	S	O	R	F	F	O	R	I	
T	A	K	E	N	O	T	E		
A	H	I	Y		P	I	N	I	O
O	U	T	G	O	A	C	E	R	
P	R	O	P	A	P	E	R	M	O
U	N	O	I	D	O	L			
S	S	N		C	A	P	S		

Yesterday's answer 7-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Rhys Meyers, 39; Maya Rudolph, 44; Julian McMahon, 48; Peggy Fleming, 68.

Happy Birthday: You'll be faced with opposition if you try to alter your surroundings, position or the direction you are heading in without going through the proper channels. As long as you pay close attention to details and listen carefully to advice, you will end up exactly where you want to be. Greater stability is heading your way. Your numbers are 4, 15, 23, 30, 34, 40, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Try something new. Diligence and hard work will help you turn your skills or knowledge into something that can help you get ahead. Celebrate your good fortune with friends or the one you love. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let stubbornness take over and ruin your day. Think before you respond. Spend more time expanding your knowledge and exploring ways to use your skills. Don't criticize others when you should be adapting to your surroundings. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take sides or make promises that you cannot keep. Someone will take advantage of your generosity. Stick close to home and do the most for yourself and the ones you love. Keep your life simple and live within your means. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take on a new challenge and offer insights and ideas that will help you carry out new

projects. Host a meeting or an event that will give you the opportunity to use your skills and reap the rewards. Choose to be unique. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't give in to emotional manipulation. Size up your situation and try to be fair to others. Make the necessary changes to allow you to move forward. Keep an open mind and an open heart. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check out what's happening in your neighborhood. Discussions must be handled carefully. If you work alongside someone who sees things differently than you, the results can be spectacular if you are both willing to compromise. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Reconnect with people from your past and you will gain access to valuable information that will help you advance. Keep the peace and be a good mediator. Don't try to buy favors. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A vocal approach to the way you want things done could work against you. Try making the changes you want without drawing attention to what you are doing. A finished product will be much easier to present. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be torn between what needs to be done and what you'd rather be doing. Work hard, don't fight the inevitable and you will find a way to fit in the activities you enjoy most without feeling stressed. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Problems will crop up if you are dealing with contracts associated with home improvements. Stay on top of matters that require your undivided attention to avoid heavy costs or poor results. Get what you want in writing. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll get mixed reviews no matter what you do. Take the time to go over last-minute details and ask for opinions, suggestions and help if you need it. It's best to be up front if you want to avoid being blamed. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your energy into what you do best. Don't let anyone push you into something you have no control over. An emotional plea is not going to help you if your plan is not detailed and well thought out. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are focused, steadfast and appealing. You are loyal and progressive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	2	6			8	4			
1			9		4			3	
			1					6	
			3					5	
			8					7	
		7					1		
7	3				9				
8	5	9	6		2	1	7	4	

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	3	9	8	4	6	7	5
7	4	6	5	3	1	8	2	9
8	5	9	2	6	7	4	3	1
1	7	8	3	9	6	2	5	4
6	2	4	1	5	8	7	9	3
3	9	5	4	7	2	1	8	6
4	3	1	8	2	9	5	6	7
9	8	7	6	1	5	3	4	2
5	6	2	7	4	3	9	1	8

Difficulty Level: ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AGED BEEF

Solution: 9 letters

L A V A N I O L R E D N E T R
A K N A H S S E L E N O B E E
R N S F T R I M M E D O F K G
U A E R E C R U S T N R I S R
T L M O X S L K T E I P L I U
A F Y U T T O C A G R S E R B
N I Z N U U I A E I D N T B B
I L N D R C N R M P R I M A L
E L E L E A A E O E Y O I V A
N E V R S T P V H A D L G E D
O T O K O O O C R E S N N T E
B T E R F A T W L S A T O T T
S E L C S U M A E H B F N E A
W R A P B U E R U T S I O M L
L T I M E S U O H R E T R O P

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7/27
Bavette, Blade, Bone-In, Boneless, Brisket, Burger, Butcher, Crust, Cuts, Dry, Enzymes, Fat, Fillet Mignon, Fillet, Flank, Hang, Loins, Meat, Moisture, Muscle, Natural, Naval, Plate, Porterhouse, Primal, Prime, Rack, Refrigerator, Ribs, Roast, Round, Sealed, Shank, Sirloin, Store, T-Bone, Tenderloin, Texture, Time, Top, Trimmed, Vacuum, Weeks, Wet, Wrap
Yesterday's Answer: Medieval
Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.
Position Title: Administrative/Accounting Clerk
QUALIFICATIONS: Holder of a Bachelor's Degree. Must have at least two (2) years' work experience in public accounting office. Must have at least five (5) years' work experience in an administrative position and extensive exposure working with company executives. Must have at least five (5) years' work experience in accounting work. Be able to assist in income tax return preparation and typing and formatting of financial statements. Must be knowledgeable in MS

EMPLOYMENT

Excel, Word and common accounting and tax software such as QuickBooks and Pro Series. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, beginning at \$8.25/hour. Please mail your resume at P.O. Box 503198 Saipan, MP 96950.

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

New Wave Dental
Job Vacancy Announcement

2 Renewal Dental Assistant / 1 New Dental Assistant
Applicant Must have 3 years minimum of clinical experience. Must be able to submit and track insurance claims. Must have experience in denture repair and fabrication, experience in assisting required. Must have excellent computer and phone skills. Must be outgoing and professional.

Drop resume with photo to our clinic, located at Micro Beach Road/or call (670) 233-3300

Misamis Construction
Now Hiring

- (02) Construction Supervisor
- (20) Carpenters
- (20) Masons
- (10) Painters
- (10) Electricians
- (10) Steel Workers-Welders
- (10) Plumbers
- (04) Heavy Equipment Operators
- (10) Building Maintenance Repairers
- (03) AC Technicians
- (10) Domestic Workers
- (06) Commercial Cleaner
- (02) Landscapers
- (02) Computer Operators-Programmers

Two years experience required and must be certified Police Clearance Required

Local applicants are encouraged to apply - Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa.
Email: misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 Shelter Worker

For more information, job description can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Chalan Piao.
Documents Required: Completed application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES, PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: August 2, 2016

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
One (1) Commercial Cleaner
Salary is Minimum Flexible Time
Willing to work during holidays
Please submit your resume & police clearance at
DREAM PLAN ACTION CORPORATION
dba **DPA Car Mart**
San Antonio, Saipan, MP96950 tel# 670-235-8688
www.dpacarmart.wix.com/cars

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
2 Sales Representative
▪ Must have knowledge in Chinese products and Chinese language
▪ Must be hardworking and honest
▪ At least 3 years experience in selling Chinese products

For interested applicants, pls. send resume to:
sunleadersaipan@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution: Ringside seat

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Penta Pacific, LLC
Job Vacancy Announcement

(2) Ground Maintenance Worker
Ensure that the grounds of buildings, parks are attractive, orderly, and healthy in order to provide a pleasant outdoor environment. Workers will trim trees, flowering plants, mower the grass in a regular basis, water the plants, take out weeds and put fertilizer if needed.

(2) Building Maintenance Worker
Knowledge of small carpentry, electrical job, plumbing and repairs as needed.

Salary \$6.55 per hour

U.S. Citizens or U.S. Resident Applicants Preferred

For interview appointment:
Please contact: Lorna S. Rivera
Tel. no. (670) 233-1041 or 233-1806

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2-Bookkeeper

- 2 or more year's experienced, High School Graduate
- Knowledge in Peachtree and other Accounting Software

1- Insurance Sales Agent

- 2 or more year's experienced, High School Graduate
- Sells various types of insurance

AMCA TRADING BUSINESS, INC.
Contact person Lisa Avendano at 234-6278
P.O. Box 503024, Saipan, MP 96950.

Position: Accounts Payable Accountant (1)
Qualifications: College Graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Major in accounting is preferred. 3 years progressive accounts payable and general accounting experience. Strong knowledge of relevant computer software application particularly SAPS R3 and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule, including weekends and holidays when required.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from our security office located at the South Wing. To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than Friday, July 29, 2016. Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

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has openings for:

One (1) Sales and Marketing Representative
Minimum qualifications: Associate's degree or completion of two year vocational program (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience in job offered, as a sales representative or marketing representative.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests product that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Assists Sales Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum qualifications: Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (any major) {degree may be foreign educational equivalent} and two years experience as bookkeeper.
Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payables, accounts receivables, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipt tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transaction prior to settlement. Maintains and reconciles bank accounts.

One (1) Product Demonstrator
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NFL clears Manning of HGH allegations



DENVER (AP)—The NFL says it found no credible evidence that Peyton Manning was provided with human growth hormone or other prohibited substances as alleged in a documentary by Al-Jazeera America last year.

The league said the quarterback and his wife, Ashley, fully cooperated in the seven-month investigation, providing interviews and access to all records sought by investigators.

The NFL is continuing its investigation into allegations made against other NFL players in the documentary, which the league said involves “different lines of inquiry and witnesses.” Those other players—all of them linebackers—provided the league with sworn affidavits, but the NFL wants to interview them in person.

In stark contrast, Manning, who retired a month after Denver’s 24-10 win over Carolina in Super Bowl 50, welcomed the probe.

In December, Al-Jazeera reported that an intern at an Indianapolis anti-aging clinic was secretly recorded suggesting that Manning’s wife received deliveries of HGH in 2011 while the quarterback was recovering from neck fusion surgery. The intern, Charles Sly, recanted his statements, which were recorded



without his knowledge. He said they were fabricated in an attempt to impress a potential business partner.

Manning angrily denounced the report, calling it “completely fabricated, complete trash, garbage,” and insisting he never took shortcuts in his return to football after missing 2011 with neck problems.

At the time the allegations

were levied, both the Broncos and the Colts, whom Manning played for from 1998-2011, issued statements in support of the five-time MVP.

Manning said he sought holistic treatments such as hyperbaric oxygen and nutrient therapy at the Guyer Institute of Molecular Medicine with knowledge and consent of the Colts training

and medical staff following his four neck surgeries. He insisted he never used performance-enhancing substances and never took anything sent to his wife.

HGH is banned by professional sports leagues and is only legal to prescribe in a few specific medical conditions.

The NFL and players union added human growth hor-

mone testing to the collective bargaining agreement signed in 2011, but the sides didn’t agree to testing terms until 2014. Nobody has tested positive, which would trigger a four-game suspension.

The Al-Jazeera report alleged other high-profile athletes obtained PEDs, including baseball stars Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies and Ryan Zimmerman of the Washington Nationals.

The report also named four other prominent NFL players: Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers of the Green Bay Packers, James Harrison of the Pittsburgh Steelers and free agent Mike Neal.

Unlike Manning, those four players don’t want to talk to NFL investigators.

The NFLPA released a statement Monday saying: “As a former player, Peyton Manning is free to do whatever he believes is in his best interest. The Union knows that he understands the rights of players under the Collective Bargaining Agreement and would never do anything to hurt or undermine active players in support of those rights.”

Meanwhile, Josh Gordon’s curious and complicated career has taken a new turn.

He’s getting yet another chance.

The talented but troubled wide receiver has been reinstated on a conditional basis by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who met face to face with Gordon last week and said he believes the 25-year-old can “make the right choices” going forward.

AP
In this March 7, 2016, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning speaks during his retirement announcement at the team’s headquarters in Englewood, Colo. The NFL says it found no credible evidence that Manning was provided with HGH or other prohibited substances as alleged in a documentary by Al-Jazeera America last fall.

Gordon has been banned since February 2015 for multiple violations of the league’s drug policies. He will be suspended for the first four games of the 2016-17 season, but he’s allowed to join the team in its upcoming training camp and can participate in meetings and conditioning work.

The league said once Gordon meets clinical requirements, he can take part in preseason activities, including practices and games. The Browns have their first practice of training camp Friday.

It’s a fresh start for Gordon, who emerged as one of the league’s rising stars in 2013 before several missteps led to his banishment.

Gordon expressed his gratitude in a message on Twitter.

“I’m blessed and grateful to be granted this opportunity,” he wrote. “I can’t wait to get back out there and play the game I love in front of the great fans of Cleveland.”

“I want to thank the NFLPA, Commissioner Goodell, the Haslam family and Browns organization, my agent Drew Rosenhaus, as well as my mentors for their continuous support along the way.”

“I’ve heard only good things from my teammates about the positive direction the organization is heading and I want to do everything I can to be there to help further that process not only for the team but to better myself as well.”

As long as he stays clean, Gordon, who met with Goodell in New York on July 19, is eligible to return to the team on Oct. 3 and play in the Oct. 9 home game against New England. That’s also the game in which Patriots quarterback Tom Brady will return following his suspension for Deflategate.

During his four-game suspension, Gordon may participate in team meetings and other activities, but can’t practice or play in games.

The Browns said in a statement that would Gordon would be with the team for the start of training camp. “At that time, we will discuss directly with Josh the direction of our team, our expectations of our players and a plan to support him on and off the field,” the statement said.

Lue, Cavs agree to multiyear contract extension



CLEVELAND (AP)—Along with a sparkling diamond ring, Tyrone Lue’s getting another reward for an NBA title.

Cleveland’s easygoing coach has agreed to a multi-year contract extension with the Cavaliers, a person familiar with the deal told the Associated Press. Lue, who took over when David Blatt was fired in January, agreed to the deal on Monday said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not yet been signed.

Terms of the deal were not immediately known, but Lue is expected to be among the league’s highest-paid coaches after leading the Cavs to the city’s first major professional sports championship since 1964.

The Vertical first reported Lue’s new deal.

A journeyman player during his NBA career, Lue helped mesh the Cavs down the stretch of the regular

season and into the playoffs. They became the first team in history to overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals, beating Golden State on the road in Game 7 to end Cleveland’s 52-year title drought.

Lue did not sign a new contract when he was promoted from associate head coach to replace Blatt, who was fired despite taking the Cavs to the finals in his first year.

Lue connected with his players, especially superstar LeBron James, and his fair-but-tough approach brought out the best in the Cavs. Lue was already the league’s top-paid assistant when he was added to Blatt’s staff in 2014.

Meanwhile, in Portland, CJ McCollum agreed to a four-year, \$106 million contract extension with the Trail Blazers, a person familiar with the deal said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal hadn’t been announced. It was first reported by Yahoo Sports.

McCollum was voted the NBA’s Most Improved Player after averaging 20.8 points, 3.2 rebounds and 4.3 assists during the regular season. He raised his scoring average by more than 14 points over the previous season.

As the 10th overall draft pick in 2013, McCollum bided his time on the bench his first two seasons. The 24-year-old guard became a starter in the backcourt with Damian Lillard last season after four of the team’s starters left in the offseason.

With one of the youngest rosters in the league (24.6 years), the Blazers were considered a team that was rebuilding. But they over-achieved to earn the fifth seed in the West and advanced to the second round of the playoffs. McCollum averaged 20.5 points, 3.6 rebounds and 3.3 assists in the postseason.

His 14-point improvement was the most since Tony Campbell improved from an average of 6.2

points to 23.2 points with Minnesota from the 1988-89 to 1989-90 seasons.

McCollum also finished the regular season with 197 3-pointers to rank ninth in the league and fourth most for the Blazers in one season. He scored in double figures in 79 games.

McCollum’s extension comes in a busy offseason for the Blazers. This month they re-signed restricted free agents Allen Crabbe and Meyers Leonard.

Portland also signed free-agent forward Festus Ezeli and acquired guard Shabazz Napier in a trade with the Orlando Magic for cash. Portland also signed forward Jake Layman, acquired in a draft-day trade, as well as free-agent wing Evan Turner.

In another move Monday, Portland signed free-agent guard Tim Quarterman. Undrafted out of LSU, Quarterman averaged 11.2 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3.6 assists as a junior for the Tigers last season.

New-look bullpen leads Yankees past Astros



HOUSTON (AP)—Austin Romine hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning to make a winner of Michael Pineda, and the New York Yankees' bullpen did just fine Monday night without star closer Aroldis Chapman in a 2-1 victory over the Houston Astros.

Hours after New York traded Chapman to the Chicago Cubs, All-Star relievers Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller closed out Houston to help the fourth-place Yankees (51-48) move three games above .500 for the first time this season.

Betances struck out the side in the eighth before Miller, back in the ninth-inning role following Chapman's departure, earned his eighth save. The left-hander got Carlos Gomez to ground into a game-ending double play with two on.

Pineda (5-9) pitched seven strong innings to beat Yankees nemesis Dallas Keuchel (6-10), last year's AL Cy Young Award winner.

George Springer hit a lead-off homer and Luis Valbuena had three hits for Houston, which had won four straight. Top prospect Alex Bregman went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his major league debut.

Rangers 7, Athletics 6

In Arlington, Adrian Beltre hit his second home run of the game with two outs in the ninth inning, a two-run shot that rallied Texas past Oakland for its third straight win.

Beltre, who finished with four hits, had two singles in his first three at-bats before hitting a solo homer in the seventh. His game-winning drive came on the first pitch from Ryan Madson (3-4), who had his sixth blown save in 27 opportunities.

Until then, Texas had trailed since Danny Valencia hit a two-run homer for Oakland in the first. All 13 runs in the game were scored with two outs.

Valencia also had the first of three RBI doubles in a three-run third that gave the A's a 5-1 lead.

Ian Desmond hit his 19th homer for the Rangers in the first. Nomar Mazara singled with one out in the ninth.

Jake Diekmann (2-1) worked a scoreless inning for the win.

Blue Jays 4, Padres 2

In Toronto, Aaron Sanchez pitched seven shutout innings to win his 10th consecutive decision, Kevin Pillar had three hits and Toronto beat San Diego.

Sanchez (11-1) became the first Blue Jays pitcher to win 10 straight since Roy Hal-

laday won 15 decisions in a row in 2003. Halladay and Roger Clemens (1998) hold the club record.

Making their first appearance in Toronto, the Padres were held scoreless until Alex Dickerson hit a two-run homer off Bo Schultz in the ninth. Dickerson's drive into the fifth deck extended San Diego's team-record streak of games with at least one home run to 23. The 2006 Atlanta Braves were the last National League team to homer in 23 straight games.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Milwaukee, Martin Maldonado hit a three-run homer and Milwaukee went deep four times, spoiling the major league debut of Arizona pitching prospect Braden Shipley.

Scooter Gennett, Jonathan Villar and pinch-hitter Andy Wilkins also connected for the Brewers. Chase Anderson (5-10) went five innings to beat his former team for his first win since June 8.

Shipley (0-1) was selected 15th overall by the Diamondbacks in the 2013 amateur draft. He doubled and scored in the third but was chased by Maldonado's homer in the sixth.

White Sox 5, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Tyler Saladino hit a game-ending RBI single to put a damper on the Cubs' trade for Aroldis Chapman.

J.B. Shuck sparked the winning rally with a leadoff single against Mike Montgomery (3-5), who was acquired in a deal with Seattle last week. Shuck advanced on Dioner Navarro's sacrifice and Saladino followed with a bouncer into center field.

Dan Jennings (4-2) got two outs for the win. The White Sox also got two victories in their last at-bat on Sunday against Detroit.

The Cubs trailed 4-2 before Dexter Fowler and Anthony Rizzo each hit an RBI single in the ninth. They had runners on first and second with two out when Jennings struck out Jason Heyward to escape the threat.

Orioles 3, Rockies 2

In Baltimore, Adam Jones scored the winning run in the 10th inning on a low throw to the plate by pitcher Jordan Lyles, and Baltimore won its fifth straight.

Jones reached on a one-out single off the third-base bag and took third on a single by Jonathan Schoop. Manny Machado followed with a comebacker to Lyles, who fumbled the ball before throwing home. Catcher Nick



Hundley caught the ball near the ground and lost the handle while attempting to tag the sliding Jones.

Lyles (2-3) was charged with an error on the play.

Chaz Roe (1-0) worked the 10th for the win.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Jose Iglesias hit a two-run homer in the sixth in-

ning. Justin Verlander pitched six solid innings and Detroit spoiled Drew Pomeranz's second start with Boston.

Verlander (10-6) allowed one run and five hits and struck out five to pick up the victory. Detroit pulled within 5 1/2 games of idle AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Francisco Rodriguez earned his 28th save.

Pomeranz (8-8), recently acquired from the San Diego Padres, gave up four hits and struck out seven in six innings. Both of the runs he allowed came via Iglesias' homer.

Phillies 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, Jeremy Hellickson dominated Miami for a second straight start, throwing six innings of one-hit ball.

New York Yankees second baseman Starlin Castro, left, attempts a double play over Houston Astros' Jake Marisnick in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 25, 2016, in Houston. Marisnick and Evan Gattis were both safe on the play.

Tommy Joseph hit a two-out RBI double in the top of the eighth to break a scoreless tie, and David Hernandez (2-3) pitched an inning in relief to earn the victory in a combined two-hitter.

Hellickson has been the subject of trade rumors, some connecting him to the Marlins.

Miami outfielder Ichiro Suzuki grounded out in his only at-bat—a pinch-hit appearance in the eighth—to remain at 2,996 career hits.

Angels 6, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Albert Pujols drove in four runs and Hector Santiago won his fifth consecutive start for Los Angeles.

Pujols leads the majors with 26 RBI in July, including 16 in his past eight games.

Santiago (9-4) is 5-0 with a 1.48 ERA in July. He held the Royals to two runs on five hits with four walks and five strikeouts.

Ian Kennedy (6-9) is 0-3 in five starts since a victory June 26.

Instead of making history, Spieth trying to ignore it

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. (AP)—Jordan Spieth walked with purpose down the long corridor toward his locker, not stopping to look at the photos and scorecards that cover more than a century of golf history at Baltusrol.

Maybe that was just as well.

History has proven to be his toughest opponent this year, and it was bound to be a losing battle.

Dating to 1934 when the Masters began, Spieth is among 14 players who have won two majors in one year. Only five of those players ever won a single major the following year, and it's an elite group—Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and Tiger Woods.

Woods is the only player to win two majors in consecutive seasons.

Spieth is not trying to salvage his season at the PGA Championship. All but four players would love to have his year of two victories and a close call at the Masters. The exceptions are the three major champions and Jason Day, the only three-time winner on the PGA Tour this year.

It only seems like a strug-

gle for Spieth because of endless comparisons with last year.

That's what led Spieth to try to reason with the media, and perhaps to remind himself, of the reality he is facing.

"I think it's been a solid year, and I think had last year not happened I'd be having a lot of positive questions," Spieth said after the British Open. "Instead, most of the questions I get are comparing to last year and, therefore, negative because it's not to the same standard. So that's almost tough to then convince myself that you're having a good year ... when the questions I get make me feel like it's not."

Trouble is, last year did happen. Comparisons were inevitable.

Graeme McDowell recalls his magical season in 2010 when he won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach and delivered the winning point from the final match at the Ryder Cup. He ended the year by taking down Woods at his own tournament in California. It was tough to back up a year like that.

"It feels like a disappoint-

ment, like a certain young American who's having the same issue," McDowell said, smiling because it was clear he was speaking about Spieth. "It's the same way when you shoot 62. It's very hard to come out on the golf course and back up a 62. That's the micro version. The macro version is coming off a year like that trying to replicate it. Obviously, there's a lot of traps."

Are the expectations too high? Is the scrutiny too much?

"The kid is not having a bad year," McDowell said. "But he's in a different stratosphere now. He's in the Tiger stratosphere, where every shot he hits is going to be questioned, every move he makes is going to be questioned. It's something he has to get used to."

And there's another sobering reality that Spieth will have to consider: History suggests he might never have another season like last year.

Spieth didn't just win two majors. He came as close as anyone to being the first to capture the calendar Grand Slam. He missed the British

Open playoff by one shot and was runner-up to Jason Day in the PGA Championship.

Nicklaus had that chance one time in 1972, finishing one shot behind at the British Open. Palmer created the modern Grand Slam in 1960 when he won the Masters and U.S. Open. He never got shot the rest of his career. Woods' lone opportunity ended in the rain and wind of Muirfield in 2002.

"There are aspirations and goals and beliefs and knowledge that you can achieve such incredible things that Jordan did," Adam Scott said. "But then there's reality balanced in there. History shows it doesn't repeat. One guy (Woods) repeated it a few times. So what's successful after that is what Jordan or any player having that kind of year will have to figure out. I don't know the answer."

Spieth doesn't believe that last year was as good as it will get, nor should he. He doesn't turn 23 until Wednesday. His career is just getting started, and the last thing any young player wants to hear is that his best—results, not necessarily performance—is behind him.



Doping in ex-Soviet nations echoes Russia's problems

MOSCOW (AP)—While the scandal of Russian doping threatens to be one of the main talking points of the Rio Olympics, other countries are slipping under the radar despite sharing the tainted legacy of the Soviet sports system.

Countries like Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine punch above their weight in the Olympic medal table, but their high rates of performance enhancing drug use, flawed testing systems and records of political interference in sport are a cause for concern.

Excluding Russia, more than 80 medals, 22 of them gold, went to other post-Soviet countries at the 2012 Olympics, though some were later stripped when athletes tested positive. While none is a top-level sports power individually, their joint achievements in the medal table rival those of Russia, but with much less scrutiny.

Russia is "successful and there is a problem," said sports scientist Sergei Iljukov, an expert consultant with the Estonian Anti-Doping Agency. "Those countries who are not that successful but have problems as well, they are still in the shadows."

Belarusian Nadzeya Ostapchuk won the Olympic shot put gold in London with the help of the banned steroid metenolone but her glory lasted just a week before lab results came back and she lost the medal.

Athletes from six more ex-Soviet countries —Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan—including the winners of at least five gold medals have failed testing of their samples from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, including retests this year.

While only Russia has been accused of operating a highly organized, state-sponsored



AP
In this Aug. 7, 2015, file photo, Russia's Daria Ustinova competes in a women's 200m backstroke heat at the Swimming World Championships in Kazan, Russia. FINA said three more swimmers were identified by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren when he examined evidence that Russian government officials ordered the cover-up of hundreds of doping tests.

doping system, with government officials covering up hundreds of failed drug tests, nearby countries share many of the elements of Russia's flawed system.

Post-Soviet countries are among the worst offenders worldwide on doping, with hundreds of cases across various sports in the last decade.

Kazakhstan and Belarus have had numerous medals from various competitions stripped for doping, and both have been threatened with a ban from weightlifting at next month's Olympics for numerous doping offenses, including the case of four Kazakh gold medalists from the 2012 games who all face losing their titles for positive tests.

Kazakhstan's biggest post-Soviet star, cyclist Alexander Vinokourov, was thrown out of the Tour de France and banned in 2007 for blood doping, but returned to win Olympic gold in 2012 before retiring.

Ukraine has problems in track and field, while in the Caucasus, Azerbaijan has racked up dozens of doping cases, mainly in weightlifting. Some ex-Soviet nations, particularly the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, tend to have fewer PED cases and higher rates of testing.

Decades of using drugs as a "shortcut" to international sports success mean that sports science in ex-Soviet countries has been neglected and coaches rely on outdated knowledge, says Iljukov.

When more than 100 athletes in the former Soviet Union tested positive for the newly banned substance meldonium earlier this year, it emerged many had been taking it not to enhance performance, but on the advice of coaches who believed it would prevent heart attacks, despite little evidence for the claim.

Sports officials in three ex-Soviet countries also told The

Associated Press at the time that they believed meldonium to be a so-called "masking agent" which conceals other doping substances in a sample, even though anti-doping experts say it has no such effect.

Ukraine's National Anti-Doping Center has the dubious distinction of conducting the fewest tests worldwide, with just two in the whole of 2014, the last year for which full statistics are available. Although Ukraine was in political tur-

moil, that is a tiny number for a country which won 19 medals at the 2012 Olympics and is a major power in weightlifting, one of the worst-affected sports for doping.

Despite longstanding doping problems, Belarus conducted 221 tests in 2014, less than a tenth of the number conducted in Finland, which has half the population. There is little remedy for the World Anti-Doping Agency WADA to change the situation, be-

cause it sets no minimum standards for the number of tests a country must conduct.

Ukraine's NADC was briefly suspended last winter by WADA, but that was for sending samples to a non-approved lab. Two people who identified themselves as employees of the NADC ended phone calls when asked to comment on its activities. Further calls were not answered and the Ukrainian Youth and Sports Ministry refused to comment.

Iljukov says some governments seem reluctant to finance their countries' drug-testing agencies, fearful of what they might find. While Kazakhstan is a comparative leader with 2,000 samples taken in 2014, other Central Asian countries don't have any testing agencies of their own and rely on patchy testing from authorities based abroad.

BREWERS

From Page 28

Tenorio had an RBI single at the top of the fourth, while Alepuyo got his second run in the fifth off another Yankees miscues. Pitcher Nokki Saralu, who relieve starter Leonard Sablan in the third, hit an RBI single in the sixth, while Byron Kaipat had the same connection to tie the match at 7-all.

The Brewers then kept going in the seventh with Tenorio and Leonard Sablan reach-

ing off the Yankees' defensive miscues and Flores scoring from Saralu's sacrifice out to put their team on top, 10-7.

A two-run bottom of the seventh off Guerrero's RBI single and Robert Tudela's run from a fielder's choice moved the Yankees within one, but the Brewers gained more cushion, 11-9, at the top of the eighth with Flores scoring from a wild pitch.

The Yankees also made one run at the bottom of the eighth with Guerrero nailing another

RBI single to keep his team's hopes alive. The Yankees went on to boost their chances to tie or win the match when the Brewers were called for a 1-2-3 inning at the top of ninth with Manny Sablan flying out at center field and Yankees pitcher Peter Lieto striking out Kaipat and Alepuyo.

However, the Brewers also leaned on their defense to foil the Yankees' bid as Cepeda closed out for the team and got two early strikeouts and Lieto was beaten to third base.

CNMI

From Page 28

yups," Omar added.

By the end of the third, the CNMI turned the 7-point cushion to a promising 79-62 advantage. Gregory Sablan led the breakaway, scoring 8 points in the pivotal third, while four of his teammates added at least 4 points each.

The Commonwealth crew went on to complete the lopsided victory in the fourth. They cherry picked in the paint, making putbacks and point-blanked shots after Guam opted for a smaller lineup to counter its foe's fast-paced game, but the gamble backfired on the losing squad.

Sablan top-scored for the CNMI with his 23 points, while big men Jester Kintaro and Blake Dean chipped

in 11 and 10, respectively, while teaming up for 19 of the squad's 41 rebounds. Jethro Cruz was the other double figure scorer for the Commonwealth, adding 10.

All 12 players of the CNMI scored against Guam and the former's balance offense resulted to the team's 13 assists. The Commonwealth also had 20 steals in its first match in the tournament.

In their second game, the CNMI Junior Nationals recovered from a slow start, too, en route to another 100-plus point production.

After Yap trimmed the CNMI's double-digit lead, 45-31, to 8 in the third period, 57-65, the latter turned on the heat in the final canto to cruise to victory.

"We played better defense in the last four minutes of the

fourth quarter. We forced a lot of turnovers in that stretch and converted Yap's errors into easy layups," Ajoste said.

Ron Atalig Jr., who had only 3 markers in their win against Guam, came out smoking versus Yap, drilling a game-high 26 points. Cruz backed him up, tallying 18, while Aiferson Atan and Blake contributed 12 apiece.

The rest of the CNMI Junior Nationals graced the box score to pound Yap, which was led by the 25 markers of Zeric Gant.

Yap dropped to a 0-2 record as it also lost its debut to Palau last Monday night.

Meanwhile, Palau and Guam were scheduled to meet last night at 6pm, while Yap was slated to play its third game in the tournament against Belau at 8pm.

Monday Game

CNMI 105 — Sablan 23, Kintaro 11, Cruz 10, Blake 10, Atan 9, Paragados 6, Castro 6, Rios 6, Castillo 6, Ngirarois 4, Siech 4, Atalig 3.

Guam 75 — Borja 13, Mandapat 12, Quinene 11, Cabral 8, Soriano 7, Gabriel 7, Fegurgur 6, Pelkey 5, Taitano 3, Afileje 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-26, 48-42, 79-62, 105-75.

Tuesday Game

CNMI 101 — Atalig 26, Cruz 18, Atan 12, Blake 12, Kintaro 5, Castillo 5, Paragados 5, Siech 5, Castro 3, Sablan 2, Ngirarois 2.

Yap 74 — Gant 25, Defngin 17, Falag 6, Belmog 6, Wen 6, Haleyesemal 5, Flaug 2, Gilnug 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 43-31, 65-57, 101-74.

TRAC

From Page 28

Powerade Station 2 and 4 at Banzai Cliff and back to Mariana Resort. For the 60K road bike event, riders will do the course (left to RTE 30, Banzai Cliff, Powerade Station 3, turnaround and all the way to Powerade Station 2 before returning to Mariana Resort) three times. In the 21K MTB, participants will pass through Binadu Drive, the back side of Marianas Golf Resort and the end of FEBC. Then they will go down Kimikaze Trail, Santa Claus, Cowtown, and Banzai Trail. From Banzai, bikers will take the RTE 30 all the way up to Ayuyu Drive, FEBC, and back to Binadu Drive all the way to the finish line at Mariana Resort.

In the 10K fun run, partici-

pants will go to Last Command Post, around the Veterans Memorial, Powerade Station 4 at Banzai Cliff, and back to Mariana Resort for the finish.

Registration forms for the three competitions are available at Saipan Bike Pro and Taro Sue. Entry fees are only \$10 with the first 50 paid entries getting a free T-shirt. There will be no entrance fee for students (18 years old and below) participating in the sportsfest. Registration deadline is this Saturday and race kits can be picked up at the 13 Fishermen pavilion.

This weekend's event is supported by Bridge Capital, LLC, Coca-Cola, Powerade, T Galleria, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and Best Sunshine International (**Roselyn B. Monroyo**)

2016 SSC Summer Learn To Swim Program

PHOTOS By SAIPAN SWIM CLUB



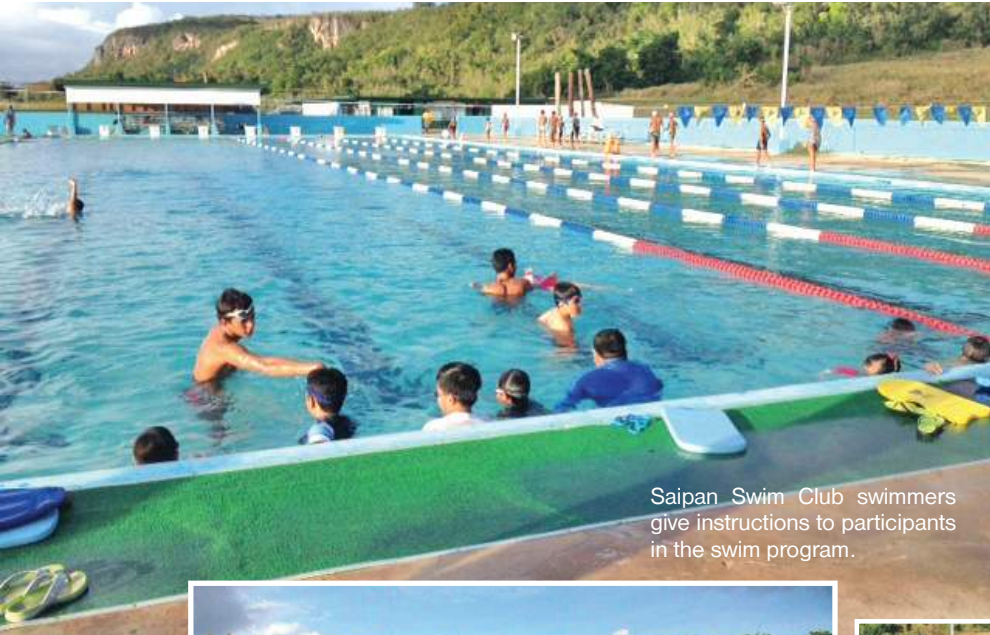
Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis shows Jebro Leon and Brooke Nevitt the proper hand position while swimming during the 2016 SSC Summer Learn To Swim Program held this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Victoria Chentsova assists a swimmer.



Two young swimmers follow the lead of Victoria Chentsova.



Saipan Swim Club swimmers give instructions to participants in the swim program.



Swimmers learn how to float, while others wait for their turn to do the same drill.

A lifeguard from Mariana Resort watches Saipan Swim Club members teach kids how to swim.



Saipan Swim Club members watch a swim program participant cruises into the waters of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



Swim program participants line up to dive into the pool.



Swim program participants show to Saipan Swim Club swimmers the hand position they learned from their mentors.



NFL clears
Manning
of GHG
allegations

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New-look
bullpen leads
Yankees past
Astros

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI blows out Guam, Yap

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals became the instant favorites in the 2016 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament after crushing Guam and Yap in their first two games at the Palau National Gymnasium in Koror.

The Commonwealth cagers debuted in the MBT last Monday and hammered Guam, 105-75, while in their second game yesterday, the CNMI bet picked up where they left off, crushing Yap, 101-74. With its 2-0 record, the Preston Basa-coached squad boosted its Final Four chances and will need to win only one of its two remaining matches to advance to the playoffs. The CNMI Junior Nationals will face Belau this morning and Palau tomorrow.

Against Guam, the CNMI blew the game wide open in the second half after a slow start in the first, using its speed to force turnovers and get away with fastbreak layups.

Earlier in the opening canto, Guam managed to take the lead, 26-21, after capitalizing on the numerous fouls the CNMI committed. In the second, the Commonwealth cagers grabbed the upperhand, 48-42, but were still disorganized on defense.

"We had a slow start in the first half. Our players were nervous because this is their first tournament outside Saipan. Guam had a full court



man-to-man pressure defense at times during the first half and was successful in forcing turnovers that gave them easy baskets. In the second quarter, we sent Guam to the foul line a lot of times and they made most of their free throws," assistant coach Omar Ajoste told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Omar added that by the second half, they made the necessary adjustments, starting off with the pace of the game.

"We stepped on the pedal, but still we were in foul trouble and Guam managed to make their free throws. Then in the last three minutes of the third, we started making steals and converted them into la-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Junior Nationals' Dean Blake, left, fakes off the defense of Dan Barcinas before pulling up for a shot during a scrimmage last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Blake scored in double figures in both wins of the CNMI in the 2016 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament at the Palau National Gymnasium in Koror.



TRAC sportsfest
slated this Sunday



The Triathlon Association of the CNMI will hold the TRAC Summer Sportsfest 2016 this Sunday in Marpi.

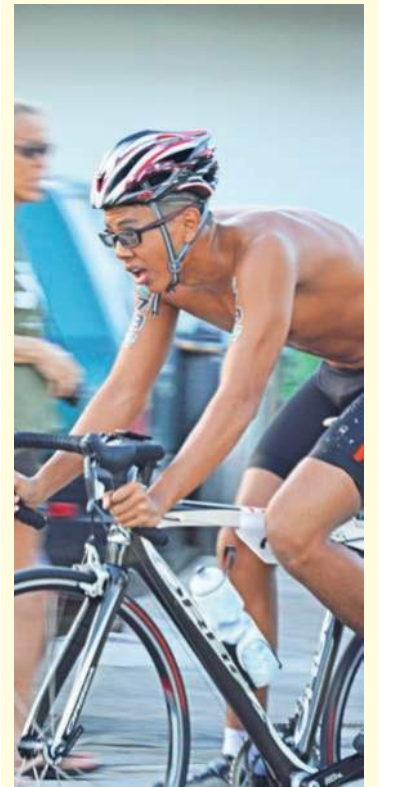
There will be three competitions in the weekend event with the triathlon race dubbed as Chagi Paupau Triathlon 5150 set to start at Paupau Beach, while the bike and 10K run contests will begin at Mariana Resort. All races will kick off at 6am.

The triathlon event will have a 1.5-kilometer swim course, while the bike and run legs have 40K and 10K distances, respectively. The bike leg will start at the parking lot of Paupau Beach with bikers heading to RTE 30 and Banzai Cliff Road, Powerade Station 4 before turning around and proceeding to RTE 30 all the way to Powerade Station 2 (Seafix sign, north of Saipan Ice). Participants will do the bike course twice before going to Mariana Resort for the bike-run transition.

In the run leg, triathletes will head to Powerade Station 3, Last Command Post, Veterans Memorial loop, Powerade Station 4, and Banzai Cliff before going back to Mariana Resort.

For the bike race, there will be three divisions: 10K kids category, 60K road bike, and 21K MTB. The kids race will bring bikers to east of Last Command Post,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Christian Villacrusis competes in this year's Tagaman Triathlon. A triathlon race is one of the events scheduled in this weekend's TRAC Summer Sportsfest 2016.

Brewers nose out Yankees, 11-10

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The GSM Brewers finished their regular season campaign in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League with a close 11-10 victory over the Yankees last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers completed the double-round robin elimination with an 11-3 record for second place behind the Chalan Kanoa Bears (13-0), who were gunning for a sweep last night when they faced the BSI Aces. The Yankees, who are already out of contention

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
GSM Brewers designated hitter Manny Sablan throws to Byron Kaipat during their warm-up drills last week before playing against the Falcons in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

in the Final Four, fell to a 4-9 mark and will play their last game today against Titanium (7-6).

It was a come-from-behind victory for the second semifinalist Brewers as the defending champions once stared a 3-7 deficit after three complete innings. Franco Nakamura, Joe Guerrero, and Ben Taisacan each scored two earned runs for the Yankees in the first three innings, while Mario Salas reached off an error for the team's first seven runs. The Brewers, on the other hand, drew one run each from Pat Alepuyo and Ton Tenorio off the Yankees miscues, while the third run came from Vince Cepeda, who made it home off a sacrifice out from Mark Flores.

The Brewers' three runs came in the first two innings and they went 1-2-3 in the third to fall behind, but slowly got back into the game after scoring in five of the last six innings of the match, while shutting down the Yankees from the fourth to sixth.

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